EUROPEAN UNION WATER INITIATIVE PLUS
FOR EASTERN PARTNERSHIP COUNTRIES

Final Inception Report

November 2017
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# Project Information

| **Name of grant beneficiary** | Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)  
| | United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) |
| **Title of the Action** | European Union Water Initiative Plus 4 Eastern Partnership |
| **Grant Agreement Number** | OECD: ENI/2015/368-635  
| | UNECE: ENI/2016/381-404  
| | EU Member State Consortium: ENI/2016/372-403 |
| **Start date and end date** | 01.09.2016 - 31.08.2020 |
| **Budget in EURO** | OECD: 4,394,791 (including co-financing)  
| | UNECE: 3,316,000 (including co-financing)  
| | EU Member State Consortium: 17,400,000 (including co-financing) |
| **Eastern Partnership 20 Deliverables**¹ | Deliverable 16 “Environment and adaptation to climate change” |
| **Milestones to be achieved in 2017** | National and regional work plans to improve water management ready |
| **Milestones to be achieved in 2020** | Legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks improved to enable WFD-compliant management |

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¹ [https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/swd_2017_300_f1_joint_staff_working_paper_en_v5_p1_940530.pdf](https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/swd_2017_300_f1_joint_staff_working_paper_en_v5_p1_940530.pdf)
## List of Abbreviations

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Whole of Project Abbreviations</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AA</td>
<td>Association Agreement with the European Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>ADB</td>
<td>Asian Development Bank</td>
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<tr>
<td>BMO</td>
<td>Basin Management Organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSOs</td>
<td>Civil Society Organisations</td>
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<tr>
<td>DoA</td>
<td>Description of Action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DG NEAR</td>
<td>Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations of the European Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>EaP</td>
<td>Eastern Partnership</td>
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<tr>
<td>EC</td>
<td>European Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>EECCA</td>
<td>Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia</td>
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<tr>
<td>EPIRB</td>
<td>Environmental Protection of International River Basins</td>
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<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>EU-MS</td>
<td>EU-Member States</td>
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<tr>
<td>EUWI+</td>
<td>European Union Water Initiative Plus for Eastern Partnership countries</td>
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<tr>
<td>FD</td>
<td>Flood Directive</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRMP</td>
<td>Flood Risk Management Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>GDP</td>
<td>Gross Domestic Product</td>
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<tr>
<td>GLAAS</td>
<td>UN Water Global Assessment and Analysis of Sanitation and Drinking Water</td>
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<tr>
<td>GW</td>
<td>Groundwater</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICPDR</td>
<td>International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River</td>
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<tr>
<td>IFIs</td>
<td>International Financial Institutions</td>
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<tr>
<td>INBO</td>
<td>International Network of Basin Organisations</td>
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<tr>
<td>IOs</td>
<td>International Organisations</td>
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<tr>
<td>IOWater/OIEau</td>
<td>International Office for Water (English / French name)</td>
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<tr>
<td>IWWRM</td>
<td>Integrated Water Resources Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>JMP</td>
<td>Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation</td>
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<tr>
<td>MCM</td>
<td>Million Cubic Metres</td>
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<td>MEAs</td>
<td>Multilateral Environmental Agreements</td>
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<td>MDGs</td>
<td>Millennium Development Goals</td>
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<tr>
<td>MS</td>
<td>EU Member State</td>
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<td>MSFD</td>
<td>EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive</td>
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<td>NESB</td>
<td>National Executive Steering Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGOs</td>
<td>Non-Governmental Organisations</td>
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<tr>
<td>NPD</td>
<td>National Policy Dialogue</td>
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<tr>
<td>O&amp;M</td>
<td>Operation and Maintenance</td>
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<tr>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>OSCE</td>
<td>Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe</td>
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<tr>
<td>POM</td>
<td>Programme of Measures</td>
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<tr>
<td>QA</td>
<td>Quality Assurance</td>
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<tr>
<td>QC</td>
<td>Quality Control</td>
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<tr>
<td>QM</td>
<td>Quality Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>RBC</td>
<td>River Basin Council</td>
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<td>RBD</td>
<td>River Basin District</td>
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<td>RBMP</td>
<td>River Basin Management Plan</td>
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<td>RBO</td>
<td>River Basin Organisation</td>
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<td>REC</td>
<td>Regional Environmental Centre</td>
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<td>SDGs</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goals</td>
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<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>Surface Water</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abbreviation</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>TCW</td>
<td>Transitional and Coastal Waters</td>
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<td>UBA</td>
<td>Umweltbundesamt, Austrian Environment Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNECE</td>
<td>United Nations Economic Commission for Europe</td>
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<tr>
<td>UWWT</td>
<td>Urban Waste Water Treatment</td>
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<tr>
<td>WBMP</td>
<td>Water Basin Management Plans</td>
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<td>WFD</td>
<td>Water Framework Directive</td>
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<td>WHO</td>
<td>World Health Organization</td>
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<td>WPZ</td>
<td>Water Protection Zones</td>
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<td>WRM</td>
<td>Water Resources Management</td>
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<td>WUA</td>
<td>Water Users Association</td>
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**Country-specific abbreviations**

**Armenia**
- ARMNAB: Armenian National Accreditation Body
- CARD: Centre for Agribusiness and Rural Development
- EIMC: The Environmental Impact Monitoring Centre
- HMC: Hydrogeological Monitoring Centre
- HPPs: Hydro Power Plants
- MNP: Ministry of Nature Protection
- SCWS: State Committee on Water Systems
- SWCIS: State Water Cadastre Information System of Armenia
- WRMA: Water Resources Management Agency

**Azerbaijan**
- MENP: Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources
- WRSA: Water Resources State Agency of Ministry of Emergency Situations

**Belarus**
- BelStat: National Committee for Statistics
- BSCA: Belarusian State Centre for Accreditation
- CRICUWR: Central Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources
- Minprirody: The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Protection
- NSSD: National Strategy for Sustainable Development

**Georgia**
- MENRP: Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection
- NEA: The National Environment Agency
- NWP: National Water Partnership

**Republic of Moldova**
- AAM: Agency “Apele Moldovei”
- AGMR: Agency for Geology and Mineral Resources
- AMAC: Association of Apacanals (municipal water utility or vodokanal in other EECCA countries)
- ANRE: National Agency for Economic Regulation of the Energy Sector (also regulates WSS)
- CALM: Congress of Local Public Administrations
- CC: NPD Coordination Committee
- MARDE: Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of the Republic of Moldova
- MoAgri: Former Ministry of Agriculture (of the Republic of Moldova)
- MoENV: Former Ministry of Environment (of the Republic of Moldova)
- Moldova: Republic of Moldova
- SHS: State Hydrometeorological Service
- SIRA: Information decision support system for water resources
- SWC: The SWC of the Republic of Moldova
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ukraine</th>
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<tr>
<td>Geonadra</td>
<td>State Service for Geology and Mineral Resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>MENR</td>
<td>Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAAU</td>
<td>National Accreditation Agency of Ukraine</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAWR</td>
<td>State Agency of Water Resources</td>
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<td>SEMS</td>
<td>State Environment Monitoring System</td>
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<tr>
<td>SWC</td>
<td>State Water Cadastre</td>
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<td>UkrHMC</td>
<td>Ukrainian Hydrometeorological Center</td>
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Executive Summary

Background

The European Union Water Initiative Plus (EUWI+) for Eastern Partnership (EaP) was launched in late 2016 to help EaP countries address challenges of water resources management in a more effective way.

As part of their co-operation with the European Union (EU), EaP countries have expressed and demonstrated a willingness to align their water policies and practices with the general principles and specific requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD). Similarly, they are ready to align with other thematic and sectoral water directives and UN Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) such as the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Water Convention. Georgia, the Republic of Moldova (hereafter “Moldova”) and Ukraine have made ambitious commitments to reform water policies and approximate towards the EU water acquis as part of the Association Agreements signed with the EU in 2014. A comprehensive and enhanced partnership agreement was signed with Armenia in 2017 on the margins of the 5th Eastern Partnership Summit. Negotiations for a new comprehensive agreement with Azerbaijan started in 2017.

The overall objective of the EUWI+ project is to improve the management of water resources, in particular of transboundary rivers, in the six partner countries. The project will operate on a national and regional level and addresses challenges in both development and implementation of efficient management of water resources.

Both region-wide work and country-specific work is structured around three result areas:

- **Result 1:** Legal and regulatory frameworks improved in line with the WFD, Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and MEAs;
- **Result 2:** River Basin Management Plans (RBMP plans) designed and implemented in line with the WFD principles; and
- **Result 3:** Lessons learned regularly collected, shared and communicated to stakeholders.

The OECD and UNECE are implementing activities under Result 1. Results 2 and 3 are implemented by the Member States Consortium, including the Austrian Environment Agency (UBA) and the International Office for Water (OIEau/IOWater) of France.

Inception period

The EUWI+ inception phase started on 1 September 2016. It was kicked off through a high-level regional meeting held on 19-20 September 2016 in Kyiv, Ukraine to close the “Environmental Protection of International River Basins” (EPIRB) project for 2012-16 and introduce EUWI+. National kick-off meetings in all six EaP countries followed in November-December 2016. These meetings launched the project formally in each country and started the detailed discussions on country needs and expectations for EUWI+.
The period January to March 2017 allowed further discussion with countries, additional missions and the development of national priorities into a coherent work plan. Draft national work plans and a regional work plan were presented at a national level through National Policy Dialogue (NPD) meetings where operational. The NPD process in Ukraine, relaunched after a five-year freeze, is considered an early success for EUWI+. In Belarus, the work plan was discussed at a national level facilitated by the key beneficiary – the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Protection (Minprirody). In parallel, discussions started to structure the NPD process in Belarus in preparation for the formal registration of the EUWI+ project.

Following national-level review and feedback, the draft work plans were finalised and incorporated into a draft Inception Report. The inception phase included the first EUWI+ Regional Steering Committee on 15-16 May 2017 in Brussels, where a draft of this Inception Report was presented. Comments were invited from countries, the European Commission and other key stakeholders on both the draft report and work plans. A number of comments required additional work to address, which took place from June – November 2017.

**Country-specific work plans**

The project team has extensively assessed implementation modalities across each of the result areas in the six countries, in close consultation with beneficiaries to establish project priorities and targets. From the beginning, strengthening water governance in the countries was recognised as a long-term task that could not be achieved within the timeframe of a single project. Any achievement must lay down foundations for subsequent developments and this should be intrinsic in the project design. All countries adopted a structured, incremental approach building towards implementation or approximation of the WFD at the heart of all the national plans.

Based on detailed in-country discussions and feedback from the EUWI+ Regional Steering Committee of May 2017, each country developed work plans. The country work plans address all elements – legal and policy development and implementation, institutional reform and capacity building - in a coherent manner. No one single element over-runs another. Instead, they are linked and move forward together and in synchrony. In designing the approach, the need for any water governance system to remain affordable in the medium and long term has been of prime concern. The system must also stay flexible to adjust to ever-changing political and economic circumstances.

The EUWI+ country work plans help countries move towards their selected goals and agendas constructively, and in a manner tailored to their political and economic landscapes. The work plans were produced after a screening of country-declared priorities collected following the inception mission discussions. In total, six countries proposed around 100 priority actions that were shortlisted into a manageable programme to be implemented within the four-year EUWI+ project window. More specifically, the work plans identify the following activities:

- Help establish primary legislation for implementation or approximation of the WFD and secondary legislation for its technical application.
- Help develop strategies for implementation of the WFD principles in the short to medium term based on the principles of affordability and cost effectiveness.
- Help countries meet their obligations under MEAs such as the UNECE Water Convention and the International Commission for Protection of the Danube River.
- Improve capacity of the main laboratories to comply with monitoring requirements of the WFD and to obtain enhanced accreditation at national and international level.
- Enhance capacity in ecological and biological monitoring including development of Ecological Status Classification Systems for upper and lower catchments and coastal zones.
- Strengthen monitoring systems for both surface water and groundwater quantity and quality.
- Increase capacity in development and implementation of River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs).
- Ensure within the planning mechanisms a maximum integration of water subsectors and water uses with emphasis on the Flood, Nitrates, Urban Wastewater Treatment and Habitat Directives.
- Support establishing institutions for elaboration and implementation of RBMPs at the national and basin level.
- Hold public consultations regarding RBMPs in pilot basins.

**Regional work plan**

The core activities of EUWI+ take place at national level and are designed to meet needs identified jointly by the project team and by national stakeholders. Additionally, several countries take joint action to address regional-level needs. Capacity building events also target either all six or a specific sub-group of countries.
Part I: INTRODUCTION AND THE REGIONAL DIMENSION

This Inception Report presents the early project execution, which focused on kicking-off and scoping the future work in each of the six Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries. The report presents the first findings, the organisation of work and its methodologies. It reflects the expectations of beneficiaries and general needs within the scope of EUWI+. The inception phase ended with presentation of this report to the Project Steering Committee in May 2017. The Inception Report was finalised following receipt of final comments from the countries and European Commission. The work plans in this report are as agreed up to and including November 2017.

Chapter 1: Project Context and Overview

The European Union Water Initiative Plus (EUWI+) for EaP was launched in late 2016 to help partner countries address the challenges of water resources management in a more effective way. The outcomes of a mix of regional and national-level activities will feed into regional policy and political dialogue with the EaP. EUWI+ provides mutual environmental, economic and social benefits that could reach EUR 5 billion annually. This chapter provides an overview of the action’s overall environment and structure.

The Eastern Partnership and the wider context for co-operation

Launched in 2009 as a joint policy initiative, the EaP aims to deepen and strengthen relations between the European Union (EU), its Member States and its six Eastern neighbours: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova (hereafter “Moldova”) and Ukraine. Within this framework, all partners have committed to demonstrate and deliver tangible benefits to the daily lives of citizens across the region by focusing on achieving 20 deliverables for 2020 in four key priority areas. Deliverable 16 is related to environment and adaptation to climate change. Better water resources management is an integral part of this deliverable.

As part of their co-operation with the European Union, the countries of the EaP have expressed and demonstrated a willingness to align their water policies and practices with the general principles and specific requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD). Similarly, they are aligning with other thematic and sectoral water directives and UN Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) such as the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Water Convention. Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine have made ambitious commitments to reform water policies and implement the EU water acquis as part of the Association Agreements signed with the EU in 2014. The EU signed a comprehensive and enhanced partnership agreement with Armenia in 2017 on the margins of the 5th Eastern Partnership Summit. Negotiations for a new comprehensive agreement with Azerbaijan began in 2017. The EU is also deepening, in carefully calibrated mutual steps, its critical engagement with Belarus. The EU is committed to having strong, differentiated and mutually beneficial co-operation with all six EaP partners, whatever the individual level of ambition in their relations with the EU.

In this context, the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) of the EUWI+ for EaP. Based on consultation with key stakeholders and review of past
experiences, the Action Document “European Union Water Initiative Plus for the Eastern Partnership (EUWI+ East)” was prepared and approved in 2015. The action takes a strategic approach by integrating several areas and offering hands-on regulatory and implementation experience from EU Member States.

The global policy context is also conducive to further water policy reforms. Water quality, water resources management, transboundary water co-operation and policy integration feature prominently in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted in 2015. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are universal and aspirational in nature, recognising that all nations have a responsibility to achieve sustainable development while leaving no-one behind. The 17 SDGs are more comprehensive than the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), expanding the focus of the MDGs by adding specific goals on water, energy, inequality and climate. With a total of 169 targets, the SDGs cover many areas of sustainable development that are vital for the success of the global development agenda. As water is at the core of sustainable development, it is not a surprise that several SDGs concern water, foremost SDG 6 on water supply and sanitation, as well as the goals on: water-related hazards (SDG 11.5), adaptation to climate change; transboundary co-operation, and water-food and water-energy inter-linkages (SDGs 2, 7) in line with Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) principles and the nexus approach. These goals are strongly inter-connected, meaning that all goals depend on the success of the others.
Box 1. Sustainable Development Goal 6 and its targets

SDG 6 – to “ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all” – expands the MDG focus on drinking water and basic sanitation to cover the entire water cycle. It includes management of water (including transboundary aspects), wastewater and ecosystem resources, as well as two targets on the means of implementing the outcome targets:

- Targets 6.1 and 6.2 build on the MDG targets on drinking water and basic sanitation, providing continuity while expanding their scope and refining definitions.
- Targets 6.3 to 6.6 address the broader water context that was not explicitly included in the MDG framework, but whose importance was acknowledged at the Rio+20 Conference. This includes water quality and wastewater management, water scarcity and use efficiency, IRWM and the protection and restoration of water-related ecosystems.
- Targets 6.a and 6.b acknowledge the importance of an enabling environment, addressing the means of implementation and aiming for international co-operation, capacity building and participation of local communities in water and sanitation management.

Follow-up and review of SDG 6 will be based on such mechanisms as World Health Organization (WHO)/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP), the UN Water Global Assessment and Analysis of Sanitation and Drinking Water (GLAAS), and a newly established integrated monitoring of SDG targets related to water and sanitation (GEMI). The Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators continuously develops the global indicator framework for SDGs and submits periodical reports to the UN Statistical Commission. Different UN agencies and international organisations serve as custodians for the global collection of data and facilitation of reporting under different water-related targets and indicators. For instance, the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), together with UNESCO, serves as a custodian agency for indicator 6.5.2 (transboundary water co-operation), while the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (jointly with WHO and UN Environment) has such functions for indicators 6.a.1 (official development assistance) and 6.b.2 (participation of local communities). UNECE and UNESCO facilitate global reporting for monitoring SDG indicator 6.5.2 on transboundary water co-operation. Once completed, the reporting exercise will produce the first baseline for the achievement of the indicator, including for the six EaP countries.

The EUWI+ objectives, structure and implementation approach

Overall, the project seeks to improve management of water resources, particularly of transboundary rivers, in the six partner countries. It addresses challenges in both development and implementation of efficient management of water resources. It also supports partner countries to move towards the practical use of principles and practices of the EU acquis in the field of water management with a focus on transboundary river basin management as identified by the EU WFD. Besides achieving convergence of national policies and strategies with the WFD and the EU water-related law more generally, the aim is to improve implementation of the relevant MEA.

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5 These include, for example, the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (UNECE Water Convention) and its Protocol on Water and Health, the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention), as well as the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention).
Key focus areas under the new EUWI+ project will include the following:

- The legal and institutional framework related to water resources management;
- River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs);
- Water Resources Monitoring;
- Analysis and laboratory accreditation;
- Data management; and
- Stakeholder involvement and communication.

To help establish the legal and institutional framework, the project will do the following:

- Help establish primary legislation for implementation or approximation of the WFD and secondary legislation for its technical application.
- Help develop strategies for WFD implementation in the short to medium term based on affordability and cost effectiveness.
- Help countries meet their obligations under MEAs such as the Water Convention.
- Improve capacity of the main laboratories to comply with WFD monitoring requirements and to obtain enhanced accreditation at national and international level.
- Enhance capacity in ecological and biological monitoring including development of Ecological Status Classification Systems for upper and lower catchments and coastal zones.
- Strengthen monitoring systems for both surface water (SW) and groundwater (GW), and water quantity and quality.
- Increase capacity in RBMP in accordance with the WFD including in Associated Agreement countries’ maximum coverage of the first cycle of plans.
- Create mechanisms within the planning procedure for maximum integration of water sectors and uses with emphasis on the Flood, Nitrates, UWWT and Habitat directives.
- Establish institutions for the elaboration and implementation of RBMP at the national and basin level.
- Establish public consultation procedure in RBM planning in pilot basins.

The project will, in the delivery of the above, help the countries move towards their selected goals and agendas in a constructive fashion and in a manner tailored to their political and economic landscapes. The specific progress/target indicators under the EUWI+ project for the six countries were developed and are provided in the country chapters.

Both regional-wide work and country-specific work is structured around three result areas:

- Result 1: Legal and regulatory frameworks improved in line with the WFD, IWRM and MEAs
- Result 2: River Basin Management Plans designed and implemented in line with the WFD principles
- Result 3: Lessons learned regularly collected, shared and communicated to stakeholders.
The OECD and UNECE are implementing activities under Result 1. An EU Member States Consortium, including the Austrian Environment Agency (UBA) and the International Office for Water (OIEau/IOWater) of France, are implementing Results 2 and 3. Experts from other EU Member States will also be involved in activities under Results 2 and 3. Close co-operation between all implementing partners, including project recommendations, will ensure cross-results are coherent and avoid duplication.

The project will build upon achievements and lessons learned from previous EU-funded projects and co-ordinate action with ongoing ones. Several EU-funded regional projects have been instrumental for enabling water sector change. These projects include the “Support to the EU Water Initiative (EUWI) in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA)” Project (2012-16); the “Environmental Protection of International River Basins (EPIRB)” Project (2012-16); and the “Improving Environmental Monitoring of the Black Sea” Project (2013-18). The EUWI EECCA project adopted a more integrated approach to water management, addressing the fragmentation of water resource management and improving multi-stakeholder participation through the National Policy Dialogue (NPD) process. The EPIRB project focused on improvement of water quality in the transboundary river basins of the wider Black Sea region and Belarus. It supported the move towards modern management tools and strengthened water quality by development and implementation of RBMPs for selected pilot river basins.

**Measuring achievements: Baseline and key indicators**

Water is a key resource for a sustainable development of EaP countries that integrates environmental, economic and social considerations. Industry, agriculture and households, among others, all use freshwater resources. Wise water management strategies are thus fundamental for the provision of safe water, livelihoods and sustainable energy sources. They contribute significantly to strengthen the resilience of economies and reduce the risk of disaster.

While water is relatively abundant in EaP countries, growing pressures on water resources and inefficient use increasingly affect the availability of water and its quality. Given that most water resources in the EaP are of transboundary nature, water management issues can sometimes cause tensions between bordering countries. Therefore, transboundary water management is an important aspect of regional co-operation.

Partner countries still face important water challenges. Water quality is affected by discharges of untreated municipal and industrial wastewaters, as well as by diffuse pollution from agriculture. Access to water supply and sanitation services is relatively high throughout the region, especially in urban areas. However, the quality of services is not always sufficient. The increased frequency of severe flooding and droughts is another serious issue.

EaP countries face key policy challenges for water resource management:

- incomplete or inconsistent regulatory and institutional frameworks
- deficient water allocation mechanisms and flood protection management
- weak incentives for water-use efficiency and underdeveloped policy mixes
- slow adoption and implementation of River Basin Management Plans
• limited water monitoring infrastructure and capacity.

To that end, water sector policies need reform, and regulatory and institutional frameworks must be aligned with the principles of IRWM. A number of economic instruments for water resources management should be introduced or upgraded. Water allocation rules and flood protection management should be further developed. Finally, incentives for water-use efficiency should be identified and implemented, using a mix of policy instruments.

Based on a clear understanding of the baseline, both in qualitative and quantitative terms, the EUWI+ has identified a set of indicators to measure progress. Table 1.1 provides key indicators; a full list can be found in Annex A, the project logframe.

**Table 1.1. Selected EUWI+ Indicators**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intervention logic</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Targets by end of project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improving management of water resources will require introduction of WFD-compliant</td>
<td>Development of RBMPs</td>
<td>An increase from less than 8 M people to over 37 M of the population within the EaP region living under RBMPs with associated improved quality of life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs), which will bring associated benefits to the</td>
<td></td>
<td>An increase from 4 to all 6 EaP countries having operational National Policy Dialogues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>environment and to citizens living within the River Basin.</td>
<td></td>
<td>An increase from 12 to 19 RBMPs in place with an increase from 20-50% of territory covered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National and regional co-ordination mechanisms in place to support planning,</td>
<td>Regular interaction of key stakeholders resulting in evidence-based policy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>approval and implementation of legal and regulatory framework in line with the WFD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WFD, IWRM and MEAs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RBMPs designed and implemented in line with WFD principles</td>
<td>Number of RBMPs designed and share of national territory covered by the above</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>An increase from 12 to 19 RBMPs in place with an increase from 20-50% of territory covered</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The implementation of all three results under the EUWI+ project will help attain water-related SDGs, including targets on water and sanitation (SDG 6), IWRM and protection of water-related ecosystems. This will reduce the risk of water-related hazards and adaptation of the water sector to climate change.

In a unique aspect of the SDGs, the goals and targets are global, while each country’s targets are tailored to national circumstances. This is important because it considers the different levels of capacity and development, while respecting national policies and priorities. Keeping in mind work to date by EaP countries on targets and indicators for SDG 6 and other water-related SDGs, UNECE and OECD stand ready to respond to requests for additional support. Such work could focus on practical issues linked to data collection, monitoring and reporting on progress towards water-related SDGs. For example, several EaP countries have requested revision of national targets under the Protocol on Water and Health. This process will be closely linked to national SDG agendas by integrating the two processes and helping draw up baseline analyses and monitoring activities, which would have practical benefit for implementation of SDGs.
Some EaP countries also requested support on reporting under the Water Convention and the SDG indicator on transboundary water co-operation. Within this activity, countries can receive practical training on how to calculate the relevant indicator and prepare the required data. SDG-related activities will be co-ordinated with country offices of the UN Development Programme (UNDP), national statistical entities and other relevant donors and international organisations (IOs), as required.

**Organisation and steering structures**

The basic organisation and steering structure of the Action (Figure 1), the Steering Committee and the National Executive Strategic Board, are described in detail in the Description of Action (DoA) documents (page 42: 5.4 Organisation and steering structure). All partners accepted the content and no changes were considered necessary. However, the partners have agreed on additional responsibilities at national level, which are described in each country chapter. The partners understand that organisation and steering may be adjusted throughout the project life to increase its effectiveness.
National Policy Dialogues (NPDs) on water were the major mechanism for implementation within the previous phase of EUWI in the region (although with a wider geographic scope). They were identified as an important element of success in the EUWI and EPIRB projects. This experience of NPDs justifies a similar approach under the EUWI+ project, with each country’s NPD as a key platform for driving progress.

The NPD processes in the EaP countries have been launched and facilitated by the OECD and UNECE since 2006. In Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, the NPD Steering Committees are successfully operating as platforms where key national stakeholders meet regularly to discuss and advance policy reforms. For its part, Belarus is setting up its NPD Steering Committee.

The NPD Steering Committees at national level will oversee plans and progress of all three results of EUWI+ in the six EaP countries. Agendas of NPD meetings will be prepared according to priorities in the country work plans. Summaries of each NPD meeting highlighting challenges, conclusions, next
steps and responsibilities will be prepared. Under the EUWI+ project, the OECD and UNECE will organise at least one NPD Steering Committee meeting in all six EaP countries each year.

The policy dialogue processes will involve all relevant stakeholders from governments (central and local), basin organisations, operators of water systems, the private sector and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working on water management, as well as international organisations (IOs), international financial institutions (IFIs) and donors. The stakeholders will help guide and steer the work implemented under the EUWI+ through the NPD.

In each EaP country, Results 1, 2 and 3 will report to the NPD meetings on progress in implementing their respective plans and activities in this country. The NPD meetings will monitor the implementation of country work plans developed under the project. Their focus will ultimately be on discussing policy reforms rather than project implementation.

Ad-hoc expert working groups will be established if needed. They would prepare recommendations based on analytical studies, as well as draft strategies, plans, legislation and regulation to inform and facilitate NPD meetings.

**National Focal Points and the Executive Strategic Board**

In each EaP country, the key beneficiary ministry nominated the main focal point for EUWI+, as well as a focal point for each result. Jointly with representatives of other key partner ministries and agencies in the country and representatives of each implementing partner they form a National Executive Strategic Board (hereafter “the Board”). The Board’s name could differ, depending on legal requirements of each specific EaP country. However, it would be the steering group for the EUWI+ project in each country.

The Board is expected to meet at least annually and according to urgent needs. The meetings will monitor implementation of planned activities under the EUWI+, review products and results, and discuss annual work plans on a national level. If required, the Board will also prepare for NPD meetings, while involving all national partners and key stakeholders.

Typically, the Board will have the following functions:

- Prepare for the Project Steering Committee (where a country main focal point will represent the country) and (if required) for NPD Co-ordination Council meetings.
- Discuss priorities and comment on the annual plan of country-specific actions under the EUWI+.
- Discuss objectives, related activities and expected results, and decide on the most effective and efficient ways for implementation.
- Discuss progress with delivery of substantive products and provide an opinion on the achievements in implementation.
- Discuss impediments in EUWI+ implementation and suggest how they might be addressed.
- Discuss policy recommendations to the country under the EUWI+ and its efforts to align policies with recommendations.
- Share information on other relevant programmes in the country.
- Discuss most effective ways to co-ordinate donors and stakeholders.
- Suggest modifications to the EUWI+ work plan for the country.
• Discuss issues related to visibility and communication of the EUWI+ programme.

The Board will co-ordinate closely with the beneficiary ministries, the Chair and Secretary of the NPD Co-ordination Committee, the EU Delegation to the country and EUWI+ implementing partners, as well as with donor co-ordination groups (where such groups exist).

Permanent representation in EaP countries

Implementing partners in each EaP country will have local representatives to give them a permanent presence. In addition, the EU MS Consortium established a co-ordination office for the three eastern countries in Kyiv and a co-ordination office for the three Caucasus countries in Tbilisi.

The inception phase identified project offices in Tbilisi and Kyiv, and signed lease agreements in February and May 2017, respectively. Both offices were equipped with IT equipment procured from project funds. Furniture was purchased for the Tbilisi office. Thus, both offices became fully equipped and operational during this phase.

The use of national representatives aims to clarify the needs and constraints of beneficiaries, ensure sustainability of results, and the value-added of outputs. Discussions on the profiles and identity of local representatives continued throughout the inception phase. Criteria include local experts who have participated in various studies and activities in the local water sector and/or have been local co-ordinators for implementing partners or other successful international projects in the sector. International partners developed terms of reference for the transparent selection of country representatives (including performance indicators and communication responsibilities, among others) and discussed with country officials. Of specific importance was the deep understanding of applicants about the structures, institutional setup and recent development of the national water sector in their country. Country officials, such as the assigned EUWI+ National Focal Points, were invited to the selection of country representatives by becoming a member of the respective tender evaluation committees.

Procurement procedures have followed, and will necessarily follow, the respective procurement rules of the OECD, UNECE or EU Member State Consortium. Tenders to identify local representatives in each of the six recipient countries for Results 2 and 3 have followed a two-step tender procedure. This process is based on the legal framework of the Austrian public procurement rules and respect for the Procedures and Practical Guide of the EC. Tender announcements appeared nationally in all six EaP countries on respective digital fora, water communications networks, newspapers and ministries’ websites. All shortlisted candidates, meeting the minimum selection criteria, were invited to submit offers based on specific tender documents. An evaluation committee assessed all incoming tenders that complied with administrative criteria, were invited to submit offers based on specific tender documents. An evaluation committee assessed all incoming tenders that complied with administrative criteria. The committee followed technical and financial evaluation grids, which were disclosed in the tender documents. Each national evaluation committee comprised a representative of the respective country. This person had full access to all tender information, was part of evaluation discussions and took part in unanimous selection decisions, which were reached in all six EaP countries. All such selected country representatives were contracted in the second half of 2017.
Implementing partners will co-ordinate daily national activities through regular interaction between their national representatives, including through weekly meetings. Each country chapter provides further details on the status regarding permanent representation.

**Regional-level arrangements**

Regionally, a Project Steering Committee will take stock of progress in planned activities, review products and results, and discuss annual work plans for all six countries. The Steering Committee will have the following functions:

- Agree on priorities for the four-year project at its first meeting on 15-16 May 2017.
- Comment on the annual work plan, including complementary regional and national work plans.
- Discuss objectives, related activities and expected results, and decide on the most effective and efficient ways for implementation.
- Discuss progress on delivery of substantive products and comment on achievements.
- Discuss impediments to implementation and suggest possible solutions.
- Discuss recommendations to partner countries and their efforts to align policies with such recommendations.
- Share information on other relevant programmes in the region.
- Discuss how donors and stakeholders could better co-ordinate their efforts.
- Suggest modifications to the programme.
- Discuss visibility and communication both within partner countries and the EU.

At the Project Steering Committee, high-level officials who help steer NPDs will represent partner countries. They will also likely support the National Executive Strategic Boards. The European Commission and an implementing partner will chair the Steering Committee. Observers, e.g. IFIs and relevant IOs, can attend these meetings. The OECD will provide logistical support and organisation for the meetings.

**Project day-to-day operation**

An Executive Board of relevant staff representing all implementing partners will co-ordinate efforts and follow up at the operational level. The Board meets mostly virtually, though in-person meetings may be organised as well. For example, partners met face-to-face in January 2017 to scope the inception report.

**Project visibility**

The project has developed a web portal ([http://www.euwipluseast.eu/en/](http://www.euwipluseast.eu/en/)) as a platform for access, exchange and dissemination of all data, information and services developed and used in the frame of this project. Key information will also be mirrored at OECD and UNECE websites ([www.oecd.org/water](http://www.oecd.org/water) and [www.unece.org/env/water/NPD](http://www.unece.org/env/water/NPD), respectively).
**Chain of implementation throughout EUWI+**

The chain of implementation throughout EUWI+ is expected to be as demonstrated in Figure 1.2.

**Figure 1.2. Chain of implementation across EUWI+**

**Resources to results chain**
Chapter 2: Inception phase objectives, methodology and implementation

Objectives, duration and milestones

The inception phase of the project had the following objectives:

- mobilisation of resources for implementing partners
- extensive consultations with key stakeholders, including government agencies in EaP countries, EU Delegations and NGOs
- identification and prioritisation of country needs jointly with key stakeholders in each country
- drafting and validation of an inception report.

The EUWI+ inception phase, which began formally on 1 September 2016, was kicked off through a high-level regional meeting on 19-20 September 2016 in Kyiv, Ukraine. The meeting aimed to close the EPIRB project and introduce EUWI+. National kick-off meetings in all six EaP countries followed in November-December 2016. The inception phase included the first EUWI+ Regional Steering Committee on 15-16 May 2017 in Brussels. The draft inception report was presented at the meeting in Brussels. A number of comments were addressed between June – November 2017.

The inception phase had the following elements:

- high-level regional kick-off meeting (September 2016)
- specific in-country missions (November – December 2016)
- exchange about country needs and priorities (January – February 2017)
- follow-up country missions (January – March 2017)
- analysis of country priorities and development of draft national and regional work plans (January – March 2017)
- national-level presentation of draft work plans (March – April 2017)
- drafting of inception report (February – May 2017)
- consultation with Commission services and project presentation during the EaP Panel on Environment and Climate Change
- presentation of inception report at EUWI+ Regional Steering Committee (May 2017)
- finalisation of inception report (June – November 2017).

Methodology

Each element followed the methodology described below:

- **High-level regional kick-off meeting (September 2016):** All implementing partners made introductions and presented the project to EaP delegations to work through the Description of Action (DoA) and answer any questions. The DoA was issued in advance of the kick-off meeting in English and Russian languages. The kick-off meeting secured the mutual commitment to EUWI+ by high-level representatives of each EaP country, representatives of the EC, country representatives of the EU and representatives of the OECD, UNECE and the EU MS Consortium. In addition, it clarified and secured commitment to the approach and targets of the inception phase. It was an opportunity to address administrative and structural matters to successfully start the project, including discussion over the necessity to register the project in each EaP country.
• **Specific in-country missions (November – December 2016):** Each EaP country hosted a 1-2 day mission during November and December 2016. All EUWI+ implementing partners were represented as part of a common inception phase team. It was an opportunity to present the project in more detail, consult with key stakeholders and open discussion on country priorities. Project management and governance were discussed during each mission. Follow-up notes of meetings were prepared and country cards developed to summarise the status of each country.

• **Endorsement of country priorities by the governments (January – February 2017):** Each country was invited to develop a list of needs and priorities in line with the DoA. The priorities were to be endorsed at a senior level and submitted to the EUWI+ team for review and analysis.

• **Follow-up country missions (January – March 2017):** Follow-up missions were arranged in all countries. These missions facilitated a deeper understanding of some challenges and country needs and priorities, which informed the drafting of the Inception Report. They also helped mobilise political support from a broader range of key local stakeholders.

• **Analysis of country needs and priorities and development of draft national and regional work plan (January – March 2017):** The implementing partners developed a matrix to screen the country needs and prioritise them against project resources. In this way, they produced a feasible and manageable work plan for the four-year period. Roles and responsibilities for drafting the report were assigned in a project partners’ planning meeting in January 2017.

• **National-level presentation of draft work plans (March – April 2017):** National Policy Dialogue (NPD) Steering Committee meetings and National Executive Steering Board (NESB) held meetings in March-April 2017 in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. These meetings presented progress reports and draft work plans to the countries at a national level. In Belarus, where the NPD Steering Committee is not yet established, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection shared the work plan with fellow ministries to get feedback. This national endorsement allowed the work plan to be finalised for presentation in the inception report and at the first EUWI+ Regional Steering Committee meeting in Brussels in May 2017. Belarus will only launch the NPD process after official registration of the project later in 2017 and establishment of institutional structures. However, the draft work plan was discussed at the technical level in advance of the Regional Steering Committee meeting.

• **Drafting of inception report (February – May 2017):** The implementing partners worked together to draft the inception report with the OECD having overall responsibility for co-ordination and coherence.

• **Presentation of draft inception report at project Regional Steering Committee (May 2017):** Following national-level review and subsequent revision of the report and work plans, the final Inception Report and work plans were presented at the first Project Steering Committee in Brussels on 15-16 May 2017 for adoption by the countries.

• **Update and finalisation of inception report (June - November 2017):** Following the Project Steering Committee meeting in May 2017, countries commented on the work plans and the EC provided feedback on the structure of the Inception Report. Work with both sets of stakeholders took place to address comments and finalise the report.
The implementing partners worked as a team throughout the inception phase, co-ordinating missions and identifying common objectives and stakeholders where practical. They used mission calendars, a shared drive and common electronic system for best practice and sharing of information.

The initial and follow-up missions identified stakeholders and discussed country status and priorities in detail. The following focus areas were explored to develop a baseline from which to develop a work plan and monitor implementation:

- Needs were assessed for legal and regulatory framework improvement, and development and use of economic instruments for WRM and RBMP. This included assessment of the extent to which the main WFD and IWRM principles and provisions of relevant MEAs are transposed and reflected in the national water policies and strategies, water-related legislation and regulation.
- Discussions identified training needs in each country to inform the set-up of national and regional work plans. This was based upon an assessment of management and expert capacity of each country in the field of water management.
- Discussions with national authorities reviewed the composition and mandates of NPDs and explored re-establishing the NPD process where the process has been on hold (Ukraine) or not yet launched (Belarus).
- National plans and the status of developing indicators for water-related SDGs were reviewed.
- Agreement was reached on the extent to which the water policy, legislation and regulation are implemented and enforced.
- Outputs and results of the EPIRB project were analysed, including findings on monitoring and assessment of waters, monitoring networks and capacities, laboratory capacities, access to data and potential gaps in RBMPs. Competent authorities and key stakeholders in the countries were interviewed to identify issues that need more clarification and consultation, to support implementation of RBMPs and to develop plans in line with expectations.
- Fact-finding missions assessed monitoring and laboratory infrastructure and capacities in the countries.
- Proposals prioritised training and supply needs, as well as support needed to implement the pilot RBMP and potentially new RBMPs. This also included transboundary umbrella plans.
- Baseline values of key indicators proposed in the Logical Framework were assessed.
- Project activities, including outline budgets, to inform preparation of work plans were scheduled.

Table 2.1 displays the date of country missions to launch the project during the inception phase.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Project Mission</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Armenia</td>
<td>13-15 December 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azerbaijan</td>
<td>28-30 November 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belarus</td>
<td>22-23 November 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>1-2 December 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moldova</td>
<td>17-18 November 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>8-10 November 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The implementing partners recognised that strengthening water governance is a long-term task that would transcend the timeframe of a single project. Any achievement must lay down foundations for subsequent developments in the project design. All countries adopted a structured, incremental approach, building towards implementation or approximation of the WFD at the heart of their
strategies. The country work plans address all elements – legal and policy development, institutional reform, capacity building, investment and implementation – in a coherent manner. In this way, no one single element over-runs another. Instead, they are linked and move forward together and in synchrony. The need for any water governance system to be affordable in the medium and long term has been of prime concern for the design. Any system also needs flexibility to adjust to ever-changing political and economic circumstances.

To help establish the legal and institutional framework, the project will do the following:

- Help establish primary legislation for implementation or approximation of the WFD and secondary legislation for its technical application.
- Help develop strategies for WFD implementation in the short to medium term based on affordability and cost effectiveness.
- Help countries meet their obligations under MEAs such as the Water Convention.
- Improve capacity of the main laboratories to comply with WFD monitoring requirements and to obtain enhanced accreditation at national and international level.
- Enhance capacity in ecological and biological monitoring including development of Ecological Status Classification Systems for upper and lower catchments and coastal zones.
- Strengthen monitoring systems for both surface water (SW) and groundwater (GW), and water quantity and quality
- Increase capacity in RBMP in accordance with the WFD including in Associated Agreement countries’ maximum coverage of the first cycle of plans.
- Create mechanisms within the planning procedure for maximum integration of water sectors and uses with emphasis on the Flood, Nitrates, UWWT and Habitat directives.
- Establish institutions for the elaboration and implementation of RBMP at the national and basin level.
- Establish public consultation procedure in RBMPlanning in pilot basins.

The project will, in the delivery of the above, help the countries move towards their selected goals and agendas in a constructive fashion and in a manner tailored to their political and economic landscapes. The specific progress/target indicators under the EUWI+ project for the six countries were developed and are provided in the country chapters.

Inception report structure

The report structure was developed in December 2016 with input from all partners. This structure allowed for a general first part, a regional part and a series of country-specific chapters. Each country chapter was to cover the following elements:

- country background (status of the water sector) and scoping of future project work
- needs assessment on national priorities, including capacity development
- specific targets for key capacity development indicators in national water management
- assessment of all project activities from a national perspective (priorities, objectives, methodologies for implementation, deliverables)
- a country-specific national work plan, including milestones, responsibilities and timeline.
Work plans were translated into national languages to ensure optimum levels of review and stakeholder support.
Chapter 3: Regional work plan

EUWI+ is a regional programme implemented principally at a national level. It aims to introduce a consistent and comparable water management framework based on the WFD, which covers the region and its transboundary rivers. All the major rivers in the region are transboundary or discharge into transboundary regional seas (Black Sea, Caspian and Baltic). Common policy, standards, objectives and targets (timetable) are needed to manage these waters across boundaries. The plans must be able to communicate with each other. Further, in establishing a governance policy, they must allow comparison among the countries. Improvement plans within the basins should have a common structure and methodology to link and communicate effectively. The WFD provides a common understanding and a systematic methodology.

The EaP countries are either committed through their Association Agreements to implement the WFD or pledged to incorporate concepts and principles of the WFD and IWRM into their national water management structures and processes. The countries are at different stages of WFD implementation with differing institutional and legal frameworks and technical capacity.

EUWI+ will work with the national governments to meet common WFD objectives, but these will have different immediate targets and programmes. Therefore, each country will have separate work plans addressing national priorities. One key regional activity of the EUWI+ under Result 3 is raising general awareness of the public to the importance of the water environment and its protection. This message is universal and has no boundaries.

This chapter introduces the specific country chapters and work plans. It also identifies areas for multi-country co-operation and presents the regional work plan.

Key areas for regional co-operation

During the inception missions, countries were asked for a list of national priorities. Analysis of these priorities and further investigation during the inception missions identified emerging themes and challenges. These recurring themes and trends will offer opportunities for regional exchange throughout the life of the EUWI+ programme.

National Policy Dialogues

Four\(^6\) of the six Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries had operational National Policy Dialogue (NPD) processes at the start of the inception period. The NPDs offered a platform for cross-ministerial dialogue and consultation as policy packages were developed. Typically, the NPD process has proven stable during times of political reorganisation.

Ukraine and Belarus had a strong appetite to relaunch or initiate the NPD process. In March 2017, Ukraine held its first NPD in over five years to discuss the draft EUWI+ national work plan, which was

\(^6\) Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova all had operational NPD processes at the start of the EUWI+ inception phase.
well attended with strong political ownership. The experience of the four operational NPDs will help the emerging NPDs in Belarus and Ukraine progress.

**Water strategy**

The inception period highlighted the importance of national water strategies for countries. All six countries raised this point as a priority either in terms of drafting new strategies or updating existing ones to reflect changes in national and international water policy. Common themes for inclusion in strategy reviews were as follows:

- harmonisation with EU Water directives
- update of national water allocation rules
- strengthened use of economic instruments.

Other themes raised for inclusion and analysis in one or more country included:

- revision of a national approach to sanitation
- water-use efficiency in irrigation and the link to food security
- business models for water supply and sanitation, including use of performance-based contracts
- the link to energy including energy efficiency and small-scale hydropower.

All countries recognised the importance of financial sustainability of water strategies and the need to make any strategy implementable and practical. This will form a focus of the EUWI+ work in this area.

**International obligations**

Several international obligations formed the national priorities identified during the inception period, including the following:

**Association Agreements and harmonisation with EU law more generally:** Where Association Agreements exist, clear roadmaps set target areas for informing the national work plan and timetable of delivery. Recurring themes naturally included harmonisation with the WFD and other associated EU directives. In the non-Association Agreement countries, reference was made to harmonisation with EU directives or alignment with the principles of directives. Several opportunities are expected to share experience and practice in this area. This is also clearly linked to development or update of water strategies.

**Water Convention and its Protocol on Water and Health:** The Water Convention and the UNECE-WHO/Europe Protocol on Water and Health was discussed with all countries during the inception phase. Work in this area depends upon country progress and status. It ranges from the ratification process, finalisation and adoption of national standards to monitoring and reporting. Opportunities for regional exchange are expected.
**Sustainable Development Goals:** Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 6, were raised in the draft work plan of Moldova and Belarus with a focus on finalising national indicators, confirming existence of data collection procedures, and developing monitoring and reporting requirements. Although not all countries explicitly raised the SDGs as a priority at inception phase, demand around this issue will likely develop as EUWI+ progresses. To meet the demand, a combined regional training on reporting under Protocol on Water and Health and SDGs is being planned.

**Laboratory and monitoring support**

All countries were found to require support around laboratory and monitoring facilities. Several countries were reorganising or restructuring national laboratories around the time of the inception phase. More details and discussion are expected in this area.

Key themes emerging for national work plans included the following:

- identification and procurement or upgrade of priority analytical equipment
- identification and closure of gaps related to monitoring of key areas e.g. priority substances or biological monitoring
- staff training
- expansion of monitoring sites and programmes, including alignment with requirements of associated EU directives including the Habitats Directive
- support on quality assurance and quality control
- support to secure accreditation.

**River Basin Management**

River Basin Management (RBM) formed a key element of countries’ priorities. Priorities should be focused around development and implementation of plans and on the potential for transboundary RBMPs. Key regional themes were as follows:

- ensuring links of RBMPs to national strategies and international obligations
- training and guidance on development and implementation of RBMPs
- improving stakeholder involvement in RBM planning
- improved monitoring programmes with better access to data and information.

**Transboundary issues**

Every country features an element of transboundary co-operation in its work plan. The issues fall into two main themes:

- support in developing bilateral agreements or at least bilateral exchanges
- support in developing regional transboundary river basin plans.

This is known to be a complex and sensitive area. It will form a feature of the work plan for all countries with opportunities for best practice exchange as the project progresses.
Capacity development

Through this horizontal regional analysis, several themes emerged for capacity development that formed part of the draft work plans. These include the following:

- workshop on challenges and obstacles emerging while developing national water strategies
- on-job trainings of specialists of hydrochemistry, hydrobiology and hydro morphology
- training on development and application of water allocation plans for national levels and (or) on improving the use of economic instruments for WRM
- training to strengthen monitoring of implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health to the UNECE Water Convention.

All these regional themes are discussed in more detail in Part II of the Inception Report.

Tailored multi-country groupings

The core activities of EUWI+ take place at national level and are designed to meet needs identified jointly by the project team and national stakeholders. Additionally, activities at the regional level with certain needs are better met through joint action by several countries. Capacity building events also target either all six or a specific sub-group of countries. This complements the basic need to maintain the tailor-made approach to each of the countries because needs are different. Six different country groupings are foreseen for the regional work (see Table 3.1).

Table 3.1. Country groupings used for regional work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country groups</th>
<th>AM</th>
<th>AZ</th>
<th>BY</th>
<th>GE</th>
<th>MD</th>
<th>UA</th>
<th>Other countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group 1. Activities to cover six EaP countries</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(e.g. annual thematic meetings under the Water</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convention, or workshops)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 2. Kura river basin countries</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(e.g. bilateral agreements, joint monitoring,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>joint basin organisations)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 3. Prut, Dniester, Dnipro basin countries</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(e.g. bilateral agreements, joint monitoring, joint basin organisations)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 4. Countries with Association Agreements</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(e.g. legal and institutional work)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 5. EaP countries, without signed Association Agreements (e.g. preparation of water strategies)</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 6. Six EaP countries + other countries</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(e.g. exchange with EU Member States or Central</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian EECCA countries)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Co-operation in transboundary river basins

In numerous transboundary basins (see Table 3.2), different types of regional activities are foreseen in the framework of EUWI+. These are the following:

- joint water quality/quantity monitoring programmes
- development of transboundary RBMPs
- development or implementation of bilateral agreements
- support to or formation of joint River Basin Organisations.

Joint actions between two or more neighbouring countries sharing transboundary rivers is a main regional activity of EUWI+. Such activities impact all six EaP countries, although in different groupings. An element of transboundary co-operation features in the work plan of all six countries.

The issues fall into two main themes:

- support in developing bilateral agreements or at least bilateral exchanges
- support in developing regional transboundary river basin plans.

Transboundary co-operation will be supported through Result 1 and Result 2 of EUWI+. Under Result 1, support will be provided for legal and institutional issues, linked to transboundary co-operation. Such work features drafting of bilateral agreements on sustainable use of shared water resources, and creation of and support to joint bodies such as bilateral commissions or working groups. The UNECE Water Convention provides a useful framework for such co-operation, as four out of six countries are Parties to the Convention. Result 2 will support work on transboundary basins through design of national monitoring systems in a way that supports collection and exchange of data at the level of the transboundary basin, and on harmonisation of the RBMP planning process. Importantly, the basin planning processes under Result 2 consider transboundary aspects in different planning steps. These steps include harmonisation of approaches by neighbouring countries on issues ranging from water bodies delineation and the monitoring network. Under Result 3, lessons learned from Results 1 and 2 and best practices (e.g. governance) will be regularly collected, shared and communicated to stakeholders of the six countries.

The inception phase of EUWI+ identified seven transboundary basins (see Table 3.2). The level of both ongoing co-operation and needs are different in these basins. Therefore, the proposed activities are slightly different. For some cases (such as Western Dvina/Daugava between Belarus and Latvia or Krami-Debed between Armenia and Georgia), the scope of work within EUWI+ is unclear as countries are still setting priorities. In some cases, other international donors or projects heavily support co-operation in certain transboundary basins where actions are to be closely co-ordinated. The UNDP/GEF Kura-2 project is one such example. During the inception phase of EUWI+, contacts and exchange with such projects have been established.
Table 3.2. Preliminary scope of planned work on transboundary rivers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transboundary basin</th>
<th>Countries involved</th>
<th>Work on bilateral agreements</th>
<th>Joint assessment</th>
<th>Establishment of (support to) joint bodies</th>
<th>Umbrella RBMP</th>
<th>Joint monitoring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dnieper Pripyat</td>
<td>Belarus, Ukraine</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dniestr</td>
<td>Moldova, Ukraine</td>
<td></td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khrami-Debed</td>
<td>Armenia, Georgia</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kura</td>
<td>Azerbaijan, Georgia</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neman</td>
<td>Belarus, Lithuania</td>
<td></td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prut</td>
<td>Moldova, Romania, Ukraine</td>
<td></td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Dvina/Daugava</td>
<td>Belarus, Latvia</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Discussions ongoing in co-operation with concerned countries.

Exchange of experience between six countries is an important part of EUWI+. The annual EUWI+ Regional Steering Committee meetings provide a venue for such exchange. An EUWI+ data and information platform and a project website with a country webpage are planned. These will enable a web-based information exchange that provides different results from all activities. The project will also support regional activities through communication channels of the project partners (websites) and the EU. Exchange with Central Asian countries, built in 2006-2016 in the framework of the Romania-lead EUWI Working Group for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EUWI EECCA), must also be continued. Other regional exchange platforms, such as the Network of Water Management Organisations of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA NWO), will also be used.

**Regional capacity building**

The six EaP countries face several similar challenges with regard to national water resources management. To maximise resources available, it makes sense for EUWI+ to group certain activities and organise some trainings at regional or sub-regional level.

While some topics are equally relevant to all six countries, it is appropriate to create sub-groups for certain trainings (see Table 3.3). For example, some aspects of legal harmonisation are relevant only to Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, which have signed Association Agreements with the EU.

Similarly to the regional activities, both Result 1 and Result 2 will provide input to the regional capacity building actions. The OECD and UNECE will deliver most training under Result 1. The EU Member States consortium will handle training on water quality monitoring and RBMPs under Result 2.

For some trainings, partnership with other donors and/or projects is considered beneficial. For example, the EUWI+ team could help introduce a new methodology for ecological/environmental flows. In so doing, it could consider previous works on environmental flow methodology.
implemented by the USAID Clean Energy and Water Program. The project could mobilise international expertise to conduct such a regional event.

Even though all six countries are interested in water allocation issues, it makes sense to organise two separate trainings for sub-regions of Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia) and for Eastern Europe (Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine).

**Table 3.3. Target countries for regional-level capacity building**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Armenia</th>
<th>Azerbaijan</th>
<th>Belarus</th>
<th>Georgia</th>
<th>Moldova</th>
<th>Ukraine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Developing national water strategies</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developing and applying of water allocation plans at national level</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improving the use of economic instruments for WRM</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementing and reporting under the Protocol on Water and Health and SDG 6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developing methodologies for ecological/environmental flow in rivers</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring biology</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developing quality management system to accreditation acc. EN ISO/IEC 17025</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River Basin Management Planning for some specific topics (economic analysis, etc.)</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Countries grouping for each topic will be further determined.
### 3.1 Regional work plan and milestones (Gantt Chart)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Result / Activity</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Inception report</strong></td>
<td>Project Team</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Capacity Development</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developing national water strategies</td>
<td>Result 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development and application of water allocation plans at national level</td>
<td>Result 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improving the use of economic instruments for WRM</td>
<td>Result 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation and reporting under the Protocol on Water and Health and SDG 6 report</td>
<td>Result 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methodologies for ecological/environmental flow in rivers</td>
<td>Result 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Biological monitoring</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of quality management system to accreditation acc. EN ISO/IEC 17025</td>
<td>Result 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>River Basin Management Planning for specific topics (Development of RBMP at specific development stages to be held regionally or sub-regionally; Economic analysis and climate change components of RBMP; Delineation and Transboundary plan development; Regional and sub-regional laboratory training on accreditation; Data management and remote sensing GIS)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work on bilateral agreements: Khamri-Debed</td>
<td>Result 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work on bilateral agreements: Kura</td>
<td>Result 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of transboundary RBMP on the Prut (Moldova and Romania) and establishment of a bi-lateral working group</td>
<td>Result 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of transboundary RBMP on River Pryprat (Ukraine and Belarus) and support of existing technical bi-lateral working body</td>
<td>Result 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of transboundary plans on the rivers Alazani and Iour (Azerbaijan and Georgia)</td>
<td>Result 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of transboundary plan on the river Khrami-Debed (Armenia and Georgia)</td>
<td>Result 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of a first phase RBMP for the River Dniipro (Ukraine and Belarus)</td>
<td>Result 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of transboundary plans on the Pryut and Pryprat (component 3)</td>
<td>Result 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work on updating assessment of the Chorokhi plan</td>
<td>Result 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Coastal zone plan on the Black Sea coast of Georgia to be linked to the Chorokhi RBMP</strong></td>
<td>Result 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transboundary</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of transboundary RBMP on the Prut (Moldova and Romania)</td>
<td>Result 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of transboundary RBMP on River Pryprat (Ukraine and Belarus)</td>
<td>Result 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of transboundary plans on the rivers Alazani and Iour (Azerbaijan and Georgia)</td>
<td>Result 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of transboundary plan on the river Khrami-Debed (Armenia and Georgia)</td>
<td>Result 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of a first phase RBMP for the River Dniipro (Ukraine and Belarus)</td>
<td>Result 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of transboundary plan on the river Pryut and Pryprat (component 3)</td>
<td>Result 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work on updating assessment of the Chorokhi plan</td>
<td>Result 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pilot projects</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water quality assessment of the middle Kura downstream of Tbilisi Georgia</td>
<td>Result 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Regional</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water resource plan development (not policy strategy) to involve inputs from Ukraine and Romania</td>
<td>Result 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Further development of Ecological Status Classification systems for various biological elements (macro-invertebrates, macro-phytes, fish, phyto-benthos)</td>
<td>Result 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint field surveys to establish reference conditions</td>
<td>Result 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coasts monitoring exercises between participating national laboratories</td>
<td>Result 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishment of centres of excellence in biological monitoring in the region</td>
<td>Result 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Project Management</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Steering Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Result 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Part II: COUNTRY-SPECIFIC WORK PLANS

Chapter 4: Armenia

This chapter was based on analysis of country-specific official data, information from previous projects, outcomes of interviews with stakeholders in Armenia and a joint prioritisation exercise. It presents background for action and cross-cutting issues, and then describes the scope of activities. The Regional Steering Committee endorsed the country-specific work plan in May 2017.

4.1. Country background and scoping of project work

Armenia has sufficient water resources, but they are not evenly divided. Thus, proper management of water resources plays a key role in the socio-economic development of the country.

Drinking water in Armenia is extracted predominantly from groundwater resources (96%). Armenia has an average level of access to water supply and sanitation services. Almost 100% of the urban population has access to piped water compared to 91% of the rural population; 90% of the population in Armenia has access to improved sanitation, but this varies substantially between urban and rural areas. Among the rural population, 19% still uses non-improved sanitation solutions, thereby resulting in negative health impacts. About 31% of the wastewater discharged into the environment is insufficiently purified or not purified at all, causing pollution and health hazards. Water quality is affected by discharges of untreated municipal and industrial wastewaters, as well as by diffuse pollution from agriculture. While access to water supply and sanitation services is relatively high throughout the country, especially in urban areas, the quality of services is not always sufficient.

Table 4.1. Water resources

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average annual precipitations (mm/year)</td>
<td>592</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total renewable water resources ($10^6$ m$^3$/year)</td>
<td>7 769</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total renewable water resources (m$^3$/inhab/year)</td>
<td>2 574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total water withdrawal ($10^6$ m$^3$/year) in 2015</td>
<td>3 272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total consumption ($10^6$ m$^3$/year) in 2015:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Agriculture, fish breeding and forestry (%)</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Industry, communal farms and construction (%)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Drinking (%)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Armenia faces several water resource management challenges:

- deterioration of the country’s monitoring network and limited water monitoring infrastructure and capacity
- limited or obsolete regulatory and institutional frameworks
• deficiencies in water resources planning and implementation (from the river basin perspective) and continued weak enforcement under the water user permit system incentives for water use efficiency and underdeveloped policy mixes
• increased needs for strategic development and management of surface water storage.

There is a need to reform water sector policies and improve regulatory and institutional frameworks to bring them in line with the principles of integrated water resource management (IWRM). The economic aspects of water management should be addressed through the introduction/upgrade of economic instruments for water resources management. Water allocation rules and flood protection management should be further developed and incentives for water use efficiency identified and implemented, using a mix of policy instruments.

Table 4.2. Water sector indicators and status in 2017: Armenia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overall national indicators</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The pace of convergence with the EU acquis aligns with commitments. Status of harmonisation of WFD principles in Water Code/water law</td>
<td>Partially transposed; Water Code dates to 2002.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protocol on Water and Health to the Water Convention</td>
<td>Signed, but not ratified; national targets drafted, but not adopted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes</td>
<td>Not signed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inclusive platforms created/revived to support water sector reforms and stakeholder participation in water governance</td>
<td>National Policy Dialogue (NPD) serves a national water co-ordination and co-operation platform; it became an established practice with a strong ownership of national water authorities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progress made towards achievement of water-related SDG 6 &quot;Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all&quot;</td>
<td>On track. No specific country indicators developed yet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Implementation of major principles of EU water acquis</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation of basin principle Practices of river basin management help stabilise or decrease pressure on water resources</td>
<td>Progressed; government resolutions have officially adopted RBMPs for three out of six river basin districts. Practices are expected to improve once the RBMPs begin implementation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advancement in institutional arrangements for water resources management (RBOs) and River Basin Councils</td>
<td>All 6 BMOs have been established since 2004, but lack funding and human resources. The Armenian water legislation does not require public basin councils.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved water allocation rules and planning</td>
<td>Rules and practices need to be updated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic instruments (like appropriate tariff setting) are being applied in water management</td>
<td>Water costs recovery (including environmental and resource costs) is partial (operation and maintenance, and capital costs recovery).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Needs for capacity development and regional activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation of representatives/officials in joint (intersectoral or transboundary) meetings, assessments, trainings, monitoring, etc.</td>
<td>Yes, regularly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparedness and capacity to assess interactions and trade-offs between sectors and to identify solutions</td>
<td>Capacity needs further development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge base to support transboundary co-operation</td>
<td>Capacity needs further development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequency and coverage, representativeness and</td>
<td>Needs further strengthening.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicators</td>
<td>Status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall national indicators</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quality of monitoring</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inter-agency/cross-border joint monitoring and laboratory exercises</td>
<td>Carried out, but not regularly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applied improved procedures and international standards (QA, laboratory analysis etc.)</td>
<td>Partially.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exchange and regional harmonisation of practices</td>
<td>Needs to be improved.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Author’s own elaboration.

Support to water sector reform through the EUWI+ project

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) and associated directives encompass a large proportion of the EU water acquis, while the River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) process provides an attractive and structured methodology based on IWRM principles. Armenia started negotiations on a new agreement with the EU in December 2015. On 23 November, 2017, Armenia and the EU signed the new Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement. Among other things, the agreement obliges Armenia to approximate its legislation to five directives in the field of water quality and resources management. Implementation will likely be challenging as water management and governance is under-funded and many key technical institutions depend on donor support.

Implementation of the WFD is demanding both financially and technically. It is a challenge for Armenia, which has many competing priorities to reform its economy. The country has a good reputation for water resources planning and was one of the first to comprehensively revise its Water Code with help from the World Bank. Several large projects under USAID have sought to improve water governance and develop basin plans; however, enforcement and implementation need to be strengthened.

The objective of the EUWI+ project is to support six Eastern Neighbourhood countries, including Armenia, in water sector reforms at different stages and levels – basin, national and transboundary. Result 1 of EUWI+ will strengthen the legal and regulatory framework at all levels through support for national water legislation. Result 2 will address the review and evaluation of monitoring, support in development of new RBMPs and management of data and information. Result 3 will help establish decision-making structures at the basin level.

Key stakeholders consulted during the kick-off missions

The project team has extensively assessed the implementation status across each of three result areas in the six countries, in close consultation with beneficiaries to establish project priorities and targets. The EUWI+ national high-level kick-off meeting in Yerevan on 13 December 2016 presented the scope of the project and gathered reaction from a broad range of stakeholders, such as representatives of ministries, agencies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and donor projects. One-on-one meetings with key stakeholders gathered information to establish a baseline and identify country needs. In January 2017, National Focal Points of Armenia provided the EUWI+ project team with an updated list of potential priorities, which further contributed to the needs assessment.
Table 4.3. Institutions and organisations met during the kick-off missions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution/organisation</th>
<th>Meeting objective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Nature Protection (MNP):</td>
<td>EUWI+ organisation and implementation in Armenia, needs assessment and priorities for water sector reform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Cooperation Department</td>
<td>Co-chairmanship of future NPD Steering Committee meetings, depending on specificity of sessions at meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Environmental Inspectorate</td>
<td>Needs assessment for river basin planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Resources Management Agency (WRMA)</td>
<td>Needs for capacity development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Impact Monitoring Centre*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydrogeological Monitoring Centre</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Energy Infrastructure and Natural Resources:</td>
<td>EUWI+ implementation in Armenia, needs assessment and priorities for water sector reform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Committee on Water Systems (SCWS)</td>
<td>Continuation of NPD process and chairmanship of NPD Steering Committee meetings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Emergency Situations:</td>
<td>EUWI+ implementation in Armenia, flood prevention, RBMPs, needs assessment for data and information management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service of the Hydrometeorology and Active Influence on Atmospheric Phenomena</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture</td>
<td>Inclusive intersectoral co-operation platform, river basin planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Health</td>
<td>EUWI+ implementation in Armenia, implementation of MEAs (Protocol on Water and Health)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Finance National Statistical Service</td>
<td>EUWI+ implementation in Armenia, needs assessment for data and information management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Economic Development</td>
<td>EUWI+ implementation in Armenia, inclusive co-operation through NPD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Foreign Affairs</td>
<td>EUWI+ implementation in Armenia, inclusive cooperation through NPD, RBMPs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Territorial Administration</td>
<td>EUWI+ implementation in Armenia, inclusive cooperation through NPD, long-term sustainability of project results.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Service Regulatory Commission</td>
<td>EUWI+ implementation in Armenia, inclusive co-operation through NPD, RBMPs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: On 15 December 2016, a Government of Armenia Resolution was adopted, which merged the Environmental Impact Monitoring Centre, the Hydrogeological Monitoring Centre and two other ministry organisations into one – the Environmental Monitoring and Information Centre.

This mission resulted in a comprehensive list of priorities compiled by national partners. Based on priorities identified during the meetings and follow-up consultations, the Project team developed a matrix that properly assessed all identified needs. In line with the Description of Action (DoA), these priorities were turned into specific activities for a country work plan presented in Section 4.4.

Overview of the inception phase findings

The project team has extensively assessed the implementation status across each three result areas in the six countries, in close consultation with the beneficiaries to establish project priorities and targets.

The implementing partners recognised that strengthening water governance was a long-term task that would transcend the timeframe of a single project. Any achievement must lay down foundations for subsequent developments in the project design. All countries adopted a structured,
incremental approach, building towards implementation or approximation of the WFD at the heart of their strategies. The country work plans address all elements – legal and policy development, institutional reform, capacity building, investment and implementation – in a coherent manner. In this way, no one single element over-runs another. Instead, they are linked and move forward together and in synchrony. The need for any water governance system to be affordable in the medium and long term has been of prime concern for the design. Any system also needs flexibility to adjust to ever-changing political and economic circumstances.

To help establish the legal and institutional framework, the project will do the following:

- Help establish primary legislation for implementation or approximation of the WFD and secondary legislation for its technical application.
- Help develop strategies for WFD implementation in the short to medium term based on affordability and cost effectiveness.
- Help countries meet their obligations under Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) such as the Water Convention.
- Improve capacity of the main laboratories to comply with WFD monitoring requirements and to obtain enhanced accreditation at national and international level.
- Enhance capacity in ecological and biological monitoring including development of Ecological Status Classification Systems for upper and lower catchments and coastal zones.
- Strengthen monitoring systems for both surface water (SW) and groundwater (GW), and water quantity and quality.
- Increase capacity in RBMP in accordance with the WFD including in Associated Agreement countries’ maximum coverage of the first cycle of plans.
- Create mechanisms within the planning procedure for maximum integration of water sectors and uses with emphasis on the Flood, Nitrates, UWWT and Habitat directives.
- Establish institutions for the elaboration and implementation of RBMP at the national and basin level.
- Establish public consultation procedure in RBM Planning in pilot basins.

The project will, in the delivery of the above, help the countries move towards their selected goals and agendas in a constructive fashion and in a manner tailored to their political and economic landscapes. The specific progress/target indicators under the EUWI+ project for Armenia appear in Table 4.4.

**Table 4.4. Baseline and targets for key indicators to be addressed by EUWI+ for Armenia (progress indicators)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Baseline (2016)</th>
<th>Target/Progress (2020)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall national indicators</td>
<td>Indicators to monitor progress towards SDG 6 (and other water-related SDGs) are being developed.</td>
<td>Country targets and indicators for SDG 6 established. Ad hoc methodological support provided to monitor progress towards SDG 6 targets. Regional exchange on common challenges and lessons learned provided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicators</td>
<td>Baseline (2016)</td>
<td>Target/Progress (2020)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>-----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progress towards implementation of the major principles of EU water acquis in Armenia</td>
<td>Negotiations with the EU on the new Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement are ongoing, which may influence the extent of further approximation.</td>
<td>Road map for implementation of Armenia’s obligations related to the five Water Directives, according to the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement, is formally adopted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support provided to fill in legal deficiencies in sanitation sector of Armenia</td>
<td></td>
<td>Support to development of new chapter on sanitation in the Water Code of Armenia is provided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation of major principles of EU water acquis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support for strengthening GW and SW monitoring programme towards WFD compliance</td>
<td>SW and GW monitoring is operational, but not fully WFD-compliant, needs upgrade (Lake Hrazdan and Sevan). Regular biological monitoring not in place yet, training and staff needed.</td>
<td>Monitoring network and systems assessed. GW and SW monitoring programme shifted towards WFD principles. Biological monitoring shifted towards WFD principles. SW and GW monitoring systems upgraded for Lake Sevan and Hrazdan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support to laboratories analysis: quality management, training and equipment</td>
<td>The EIMC laboratory in Yerevan is conducting SW quality monitoring and GW monitoring; the laboratory is well equipped, the premises need improvement. Training and development of appropriate QM-system to accreditation acc. EN ISO/IEC 17025 needed.</td>
<td>Laboratories assessed. Training plan developed. Personnel in WFD relevant monitoring methodologies, QA/QC and accreditation topics trained and training material available. Existing/new laboratory equipment/infrastructure installed. EIMC laboratory in Yerevan prepared for international accreditation. Laboratories participated in proficiency testing schemes for selected WFD-relevant parameter groupings. Study visit to EU MS laboratories for lab personnel carried out.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Basin Management Plan Model guideline in place</td>
<td>2011 Draft of model guideline for development of Water Basin Management Plan with comments from USAID and Belgium Co-operation.</td>
<td>Final version of the Model outline for RBMP, compliant with the WFD and consistent with national legal framework, is adopted by governmental resolution and implemented in all Basin districts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training programme for RBMP in place</td>
<td>Lack of human resources for RBMPs development.</td>
<td>Capacities are strengthened for all stakeholders involved in RBMP, particularly for BMOs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPIRB pilot RBMP refined (with consultation activities), and implementation of selected measures</td>
<td>EPIRB Akhuryan RBMP adopted by the government in March 2017. PoM’s implementation is delayed because of lack of funding, human resources and methodological support.</td>
<td>Based on a preliminary assessment report findings, refined Akhuryan RBMP is in line with the WFD principles (in particular regarding the consultation process) and compliant with the model outline. At least three “soft” measures have been implemented on Akhuryan basin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New pilot RBMPs in place</td>
<td>Three RBMPs already drafted.</td>
<td>Hrazdan and Sevan RBMPs in line with the WFD principles and compliant with the model outline.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National guidelines established</td>
<td>EPIRB project has already prepared guidelines.</td>
<td>Updated and complementary national guidelines are disseminated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transboundary working groups created for the Khrami-Debed umbrella plan</td>
<td>High demand from Armenia (national priority) to establish transboundary process with Georgia.</td>
<td>Transboundary process with Georgia has been initiated (working group governance...).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicators</td>
<td>Baseline (2016)</td>
<td>Target/Progress (2020)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development and strengthening national water database</td>
<td>Recent government resolution about water cadastre and feeding procedures.</td>
<td>Recommendations report about national water information system enhanced for data management, exchange and valorisation. Capacity building to data producers and water cadastre department in particular; support to national web server operation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procedure and tool for evaluating programme of measures (PoM) implementation progress</td>
<td>PoM’s implementation is delayed because of lack of funding, human resources and methodological support.</td>
<td>Dashboard for pilot RBMP is defined; implementation guidelines for RBMP are delivered and disseminated; PoM draft implementation reports are available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lessons learned are regularly collected, shared and communicated to stakeholders</strong></td>
<td><strong>Communication strategy is in place at basin, national and regional scale to share and communicate efficiently to main interested parties and the wider public</strong></td>
<td>A national guideline on public information and stakeholder participation as part of RBMP is developed, including actions to support. Mechanism for sharing information between Result 1 and Result 2 established (e.g. web-based information exchange platform).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication strategy has been developed in the EPIRB project pilot basins and partially implemented. There is no established communication strategy or campaigns at national scale on RBM implementation.</td>
<td>Communication strategies have been developed in the EPIRB project pilot basins and partially implemented. There is no established communication strategy or campaigns at national scale on RBM implementation.</td>
<td>Communication tools have been developed in the EPIRB project pilot basins and partially implemented. Basin- and country-wide dissemination and implementation of communication tools (awareness raising events, information materials, websites, press releases, social media) at basin, national and regional scale.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence of use of communication tools developed and implemented</td>
<td>Evidence of use of communication tools developed and implemented in the EPIRB project pilot basins.</td>
<td>Evidence of use of communication tools developed and implemented.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number and audience of targeted communication actions in line with the strategy implemented.</td>
<td>The prevailing situation in 2017 in the water sector as investigated during the early implementation phase.</td>
<td>Number and audience of targeted communication actions in line with the strategy implemented.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of national institutions and organisations using IWRM knowledge and lessons learned generated for research, planning and policy making</td>
<td>There are few forums for delivery of lessons learned at the national level and none at the basin level – the NPDs being an obvious example. Lessons learned are communicated, but not in a consistent and targeted manner.</td>
<td>Significant increase of ownership of strategic documents derived from water-related EU acquis, IWRM and MEAs by the end of the project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence of establishment of stakeholder participation mechanisms at basin, national and international levels</td>
<td>River Basin Councils (RBCs) established in the pilot basins within the framework of previous projects based on donor-driven process are not sustainable in the absence of perennial organisational and financial mechanisms. Key institutional stakeholders in the basin were being invited for discussions at each key stage of basin plan development, under the EPIRB project. Public participation and involvement remain limited.</td>
<td>Adoption and implementation of the national guideline on public information and stakeholder participation on the pilot basins. Participation of public in the consultations for Lake Sevan and Hrazdan RBMP adoption and to the Akhuryan RBMP updating; significant stakeholder participation at local events.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Author’s own elaboration.
Institutional development and sustainability

As a key strategic element, EUWI+ helps Armenia develop its relevant institutions towards sustainable structures for WFD-compliant management of its water resources. The institutional structure of the Armenian water sector is considered as stable, providing a sound foundation for implementation of EUWI+. Some fluctuation of experts is considered a relatively minor issue. The general reform of Armenia, from a presidential to a parliamentarian governance structure, might affect the water sector through mergers of structures. The project partners have agreed to focus on development of institutional sustainability in Armenian’s water sector. They will strive to ensure Armenian institutions meet the country’s commitment to adopt the EU WFD and its obligation under the negotiated contract with the European Union. As a starting point, project partners will establish a strategic group of two to three experts in the ministry to manage RBMPlanning in Armenia. The Action EUWI+ is built on lessons learned from several development initiatives of the European Union in the water sector in Armenia, primarily from the EUWI EECCA and EPIRB.

4.2. Specific activities

Activity 1.1.1. Needs assessment and identification of priorities in the area of support on legislative, economic and RBM issues

Summary of status

The new Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement was expected to be signed in 2017. Among other things, the agreement obliges Armenia to approximate its legislation to the following five directives in the field of water quality and resources management: Water Framework Directive, Floods Directive, Urban Wastewater Directive, Drinking Water Directive and Nitrates Directive. It will upgrade political relations between the EU and Armenia, which are based on an agreement that entered into force in 1999.

The needs assessment and identification of priorities were aimed at ensuring that all relevant activities of the EUWI+ project support implementation of Armenia’s commitments to approximate to the main principles of IWRM and the EU Water Framework Directive and to achieve other relevant country targets.

Face-to-face meetings with a broad range of national stakeholders and a follow-up exchange identified country priorities related to legislative, economic and RBM issues. Dedicated sessions at the 19-20 September 2016 joint high-level event of EPIRB and EUWI+ projects in Kyiv, Ukraine collected initial suggestions for country priorities. The delegation of Armenia presented a brief overview of challenges in water resources management and outlined initial priority areas to be discussed in more detail during the inception phase of the EUWI+ project.

Objectives and deliverables

Regional and national work plans for the duration of the project will be developed prior to the EUWI+ East Steering Committee meeting for discussion and endorsement by its members. These will
outline key milestones and target per area of work, i.e. National Policy Dialogue, legislative and regulatory issues, etc. National plans will be presented and adopted at the NPD meetings.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

To avoid overlap, the country Roadmap will not be separately produced from the country chapter of the Inception Report. All features of the Roadmap are provided in the country Gantt chart at the end of this chapter. They also appear in the matrix that analyses country priorities (see Annex C).

Responsibilities and required inputs

The work plan and milestones (Gantt Chart) provide a related overview at the end of this country chapter.

Dependencies and synergies

It is expected that the EUWI+ project will consistently seek synergies with other international initiatives and projects. In this way, it can ensure no activity is duplicated and that donor-funded activities are well co-ordinated. Key donors and projects include the Asian Development Bank (ADB, drafting standards for wastewater treatment and irrigation waters) and USAID (working on sustainable groundwater management in Ararat valley), French Development Agency AFD and KFW (developing water reservoir infrastructure and SEIS II, which deals with environmental data).

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

All needs identified during the inception phase could not be implemented fully due to limited resources. Therefore, the country was asked to make priorities so the project could implement the most urgent needs.

Activity 1.1.2. Organisation of NPD meetings and review of progress

Summary of status

EUWI National Policy Dialogues began in Armenia in 2006. In 2010-16, 15 high-level NPD Steering Committee meetings were held to co-ordinate development of national water policy reforms.

NPD continues to be multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral. The NPD Steering Committee was chaired by the State Committee for Water Systems (SCWS) of Armenia in 2006-08 and by the Water Resources Management Agency of Armenia (WRMA) of the Ministry of Nature Protection in 2008-14. The SCWS resumed the chair in 2015. Since autumn 2017, a deputy chair of SCWC has co-chaired the committee with WRMA. To ensure an inclusive approach to discussions related to policies and legal aspects of water management, participants from civil society organisations (CSOs), parliamentarians, private sector and academia are regularly invited to participate in the NPDs.
**Summary of main objectives**

In Armenia, NPD will be the EUWI+ implementation mechanism. The EUWI + implementing partners will report to the NPD Co-ordination Committee meetings on their respective plans and activities in this country, including on RBMPs. The NPD meetings will support monitoring of the respective national work plan.

**Methodology/Steps of implementation**

Under the EUWI+ project, at least one NPD meeting will be organised each year. Assistance has been provided to the State Committee for Water Economy for engaging new NPD Steering Committee members.

The agendas of NPD meetings will be prepared according to priorities identified in the country work plan. Summary records of each NPD meeting highlighting challenges, conclusions, next steps and responsibilities will also be prepared. A first NPD meeting during EUWI+ project was held in Yerevan on 7 April 2017 to discuss national priorities and work plan under the EUWI+ project. The next NPD Steering Committee meeting was to be held in November/December 2017, establishing the co-chair arrangement between SCWS and WRMA.

**Dependencies and synergies**

EUWI+ project will depend on the co-chairs (SCWS and WRMA) to ensure participation of other relevant national stakeholders from ministries and agencies.

**Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks**

National stakeholders are believed interested in attending regular NPD meetings to harmonise water policy. In 2015-16, interest in such meetings decreased due to staff changes at the main partner institutions. However, a new co-operation agreement with the EU provides a concrete framework that may re-energise NPD meetings.

**Activity 1.1.3. Organisation of regional meetings and Project Steering Committee meetings**

**Summary of status**

Armenia has actively participated in regional policy dialogue within the EU Water Initiatives. Participation at high level was regularly ensured, which provided feedback on progress and outcomes of national-level reforms.

**Summary of main objectives**

Armenia will be continuously invited to take part in regional activities under the EUWI+. Annual regional EUWI+ meetings on specific topics will enable key stakeholders from six countries to exchange experiences and lessons learned, and address transboundary issues. The regional work
plan will be adopted at its first meeting. Discussion at the regional meetings will identify actions and next steps for achievement of the agreed results, as highlighted in the work plan.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

Two government representatives from Armenia were to be invited to attend the EUWI+ Steering Committee meetings. They were expected to be vested with the necessary decision-making power. Relevant meeting materials were to be presented in advance for enabling national-level co-ordination. The meeting participants were expected to disseminate these materials and ensure follow up.

Dependencies and synergies

Success of regional meetings depends on availability of representatives of all six countries to participate and be prepared for discussions and decisions.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

Chairs of national NPD Steering Committees (normally deputy ministers) would attend regional EUWI+ Steering Committee meetings. Finding a time suitable to all may be a challenge and bottleneck. Suitable replacements should be identified to attend when required.

Activity 1.1.4. Ad hoc support to national processes related to the adoption of law/regulations and implementation of RBMPs, national plans on harmonisation of legal and normative acts with the requirements of the WFD, IWRM and MEAs

Summary of status

A proper management of water resources, including application of EU WFD approaches, plays a key role in the socio-economic development of Armenia. The Water Code of Armenia, adopted in 2002, requires introduction of the RBM principle. The Water Code of Armenia, Law "On Fundamental Provisions of the National Water Policy" (2005), and Law “On National Water Program” (2006) require development of RBMPs and subsequent adoption by the government. But there are still shortcomings with other requirements of the Water Code of Armenia. Development of a law “On Irrigation” would help consider the role of irrigation water in agriculture and support development of a national policy on water and food security. The new EU agreement will likely be signed in the first half of 2017, obliging Armenia to harmonise its water legislation with EU water *acquis*. In such a case, the EUWI+ project may help design a roadmap for harmonisation.

Summary of main objectives

The inception phase of EUWI+ identified many policy issues requiring assistance from the international community/donors. After consultations with different stakeholders, Armenia proposed 15 priority actions under Result 1, some of which EUWI+ will implement (see Annex C for the full list of proposals). Such actions can be grouped into the following areas:

- reform of legal and regulatory frameworks
- further support for transboundary co-operation
- support to revising and further developing a national policy on water and energy security, as well to strengthening sustainable water use in irrigation
- implementation of MEAs.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

- Develop roadmap/analysis for harmonisation of water legislation with EU water directives according to EU-Armenia Partnership and Co-operation agreement to be signed in 2017.
- Revise the Water Code and secondary legislation with attention to sanitation issues – support by UNECE is ongoing since February 2017.
- Conduct transboundary Khrami-Debed basin assessment jointly with Georgia and seek bilateral agreement(s) for the basin [linked with priorities proposed by Georgia].
- Analyse “harmful” subsidies in irrigation sector of Armenia, including assessment how appropriate and useful they are. A study to strengthen water-use efficiency in the irrigation sector that examined different business models and economic instruments could help address this priority. It could help meet requirements of the government resolution on developing a food security policy as it will pave the way towards sustainable water use in irrigation.
- Prepare a policy package to increase water-use efficiency by hydropower plants (HPPs) and to reduce damage to environment. Support development of a consistent national policy regarding small HPPs in Armenia, lack of which can also jeopardise implementation of RBMPs. This activity covers issues related to revising and further developing a national policy on water and energy security. It also touches upon water-use efficiency and energy saving in the water sector.
- Update and support implementation of targets in the context of the UNECE-WHO/Europe Protocol on Water and Health and implementation of the roadmap for ratification of the Protocol.

Dependencies and synergies

Policy reform activities need to be co-ordinated with the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Through its Infrastructure Sustainability Support Program 2 (ISSP-2), the ADB is facilitating investments in the sanitation sector in line with the water supply and wastewater removal strategy. It may get involved in respective policy work.

The Khrami-Debed basin assessment might be linked with Results 2 activities on basin planning and monitoring. Any engagement in transboundary activities on the Khrami-Debed basin shall be co-ordinated with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), which has been implementing bilateral projects in the basin.

Development of the law “On Irrigation” is a requirement of the Water Code of Armenia. This law could build on results of the national study on sustainable water use for irrigation, particularly in terms of the required economic and financial provisions.

The EUWI+ project is expected to seek synergies with other international initiatives and projects.
Activity 1.2.1. Needs assessment and identification of priorities in the area of capacity development

Summary of status

Recent technical assistance projects have expanded the capacity of community actors. This provides a platform to bring this expertise together and strengthen it further.

Summary of main objectives

Based on the needs assessment, potential priorities for capacity development have been identified. It will help achieve long-term sustainability of EUWI+ results and more efficient decision making in the water sector.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

Face-to-face meetings with a broad range of national stakeholders and follow-up exchanges identified priorities in capacity development.

The EUWI+ national kick-off meeting in Yerevan on 15 December 2016 presented the scope of the project and gathered reaction from a broad range of stakeholders, such as representatives of ministries, agencies, NGOs and donor projects. One-on-one meetings with key stakeholders followed to gather information for a baseline and to identify country needs.

With a general move towards regionalisation, more trainings at basin/regional level may be needed than at national/central government level. Several countries of the region, including Armenia, identified these priority themes:

- Provision of training on development and application of water allocation plans for national levels. The OECD could deliver a regional training on approaches to develop national water allocation priorities, as well as application of their rules when developing water allocation plans at the basin level.
- Training to strengthen monitoring of the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health to the UNECE Water Convention.
- Training to strengthen monitoring of the progress with water-related SDGs.
- Regional workshop on available methodologies for ecological/environmental flow in rivers.
- Capacity development events to strengthen the knowledge base for co-operative water management.

Dependencies and synergies

The EUWI+ project will seek synergies with other international initiatives and projects, providing training and capacity development assistance.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

Identification and availability of key staff to attend trainings: the number of people dealing with water management is limited, and they are often overloaded with daily tasks.
Activity 1.2.2. Organisation of trainings

Summary of status

Established academic institutions and vocational training centres are providing courses/trainings on issues related to water resources management. In addition, Armenia has a diverse donor community, and many international projects have been providing trainings for water managers over many years. While training opportunities are often not lacking, the water sector has limited human resources. Therefore, any training needs to be well planned and targeted.

Summary of main objectives

- Ensure long-term sustainability of project results in local capacity development, some trainings will be implemented in partnership with relevant and approved local training institutions (universities, research institutes, well-established water NGOs, etc.). Chapter 3 presents a regional training plan based on the needs assessment.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

Implementation will include strengthening preparedness and capacity to assess interactions and trade-offs between sectors and to identify solutions. This will require training and awareness on issues including allocation planning and the use of economic instruments. The knowledge base to support transboundary co-operation needs further strengthening with awareness of the benefits of sharing and efficient water allocation key features. In addition, need may arise to bring certain key national experts/officials to specific trainings or workshops organised by project partners outside Armenia.

Dependencies and synergies

The EUWI+ could help introduce a new methodology for ecological/environmental flows. In so doing, it could consider previous works on environmental flow methodology, implemented by the USAID Clean Energy and Water Program, by organising a regional workshop. The project could mobilise international expertise to conduct such a regional event.

A regional workshop on allocation rules and practices could inform further development of a national policy on hydro power production in Armenia and development and implementation of RBMPs. As Azerbaijan and Georgia also expressed interest to develop capacity in this area, this training could benefit from a transboundary co-operation perspective.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

Some limitation could be anticipated in terms of details and the international experience available for a regional workshop.
Activity 2.1.1. Assessment of monitoring and laboratory infrastructure, capacities and needs

Summary of status

Discussions with experts, a first visit to laboratories during the inception phase, a distributed questionnaire and results from the previous EPIRB project all helped indicate the status. The Environmental Impact Monitoring Centre (EIMC) of the Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia is the merger of the former Environmental Impact Monitoring Centre, Hydrological Monitoring Centre, Waste Monitoring Centre and Information-Analytical Centre. EIMC is conducting SW quality monitoring and GW monitoring. The lab is well-equipped, but the premises need to be improved.

The laboratory of the State Environmental Inspectorate oversees wastewater discharges, but is poorly equipped and needs support.

Regular biological monitoring is not yet in place; training is needed pertinent to accreditation according to EN IS/IEC 17025, covering management and technical aspects.

Summary of main objectives

- Identify gaps between the laboratory and monitoring situation in the RBDs of Lake Sevan and Hrazdan against the needs of the WFD

Methodology/Steps of implementation

- Jointly evaluate available strategies, methodologies, procedures and guidance for monitoring and laboratory analysis, considering also EPIRB achievements.
- Jointly assess GW and SW monitoring activities (e.g. network design, sampling, parameters) at Lake Sevan and Hrazdan in close relation to the outcome under Activity 2.3.1 concerning typology, water bodies and pressures.
- Conduct visits and in-depth assessment of each selected laboratory considering staff capacities, infrastructure, testing and sampling methods, equipment, status of accreditation and training needs.

Dependencies and synergies

- Sustainable implementation of new methods and equipment needs a corresponding legal basis for the monitoring of the addressed substances.
- Long-term assignment of respective staff is a precondition to purchase of specific equipment and provision of training.
- Transboundary interaction on SW and GW monitoring and RMBP development needs mutual commitment and regular meetings with Georgia and Azerbaijan.
- Methodology for e-flows and water balance developed by USAID project Clean Energy and Water Program.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

- Full commitment of beneficiary; availability and completeness of relevant information; alignment of involved institutions and focus on WFD implementation.
**Activity 2.1.2. Purchase of equipment, including hydrological and water quality monitoring stations and rehabilitation and upgrade of existing equipment and existing laboratories**

**Summary of status**

Water monitoring programmes need strengthening. GW and SW monitoring are operational, but not fully WFD-compliant. Also, the analytical capacity is not fully WFD-compliant, particularly about hazardous substances. Some equipment needs modernisation.

**Summary of main objectives**

- Implement upgrade and development plan for monitoring and laboratories, including the following:
  - Jointly agreed list of monitoring and laboratory infrastructure, practical equipment and consumables needed and ranked according to priority in enabling the achievement of identified objectives under Activities 2.1.3, 2.3.2 and 2.3.4. This is relevant to further achieving compliance with the WFD and its daughter directive requirements for tendering and purchase under Activity 2.1.2.
  - Description of staff capacities, including job specifications needed for sustainable operation of monitoring and each selected laboratory, considering available and newly purchased equipment and new methods. Identification of additional staff needed will be addressed under Result 1.
  - Amendments needed in terms of procedures and training of staff, considering available and newly purchased equipment and new methods. The identified needs will be addressed in the form of trainings under Activity 2.2.1.
- Deliver, install and hand over appropriate equipment, infrastructure and consumables as defined and agreed in the upgrade and development plan as laid down in the corresponding tender dossier.
- Assure analytical service by fulfilling requirements of ISO/IEC 17025 in terms of availability of maintained equipment and availability of necessary infrastructure.
- Train staff and issue training certificates by the manufacturer (where applicable).
- Enhance analytical capabilities, reflecting a long-term perspective.
- Strengthen GW and SW monitoring programmes at Lake Sevan and Hrazdan RBD towards WFD compliance.

**Methodology/Steps of implementation**

- Identify any relevant national procedures, such as customs clearance and procurement of equipment, in full compliance with the legal requirements and rules applicable to this contract.
- Jointly elaborate tender dossier for the agreed list of infrastructure, equipment and consumables and submission to the official journal.
- Evaluate and document bids, identify, assign and contract.
- Rehabilitate, upgrade and enhance monitoring sites, equipment and laboratories follows the respective upgrade and development plans.
- Install monitoring sites and equipment and train staff on equipment by manufacturer, acceptance procedure, check of compliance with specifications, approval and documentation.

Dependencies and synergies

- WFD compliance of GW and SW monitoring and laboratories is subject to comprehensive check under Activity 2.1.1.
- Consider synergies with the USAID project Clean Energy and Water Program for the Ararat Valley.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

- The project must ensure that technical specifications are not tailored to a specific product, free and independent procurement must be safeguarded.
- Sustainability of investments in equipment depends on long-term coverage of financial means for maintenance and consumable items.

Activity 2.1.3. Technical support to laboratories for accreditation

Summary of status

The Environmental Impact Monitoring Centre (EIMC) of the Ministry of Nature Protection is not yet accredited.

The detailed planning of this activity depends on the outcome of Activity 2.1.1. Laboratories’ compliance with the technical and management requirements of the international standard EN ISO/IEC 17025 (general requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories) will be assessed in depth as basis for support towards accreditation.

The level of support also depends on the available equipment and those which are purchased/upgraded/refurbished under Activity 2.1.2

Summary of main objectives

- Support the Republican Environmental Impact Monitoring Centre in the preparation for laboratory accreditation according to the requirements of the international standard EN ISO/IEC 17025 at the Armenian National Accreditation Body (ARMNAB).
- Ensure a pre-audit assessment report reveals the degree of compliance with the requirements of the ISO/IEC 17025 standard.
- Conduct study visits.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

- Clarify the accreditation procedure, costs and timeline with the national accreditation body.
- Develop appropriate quality management documentation.
- Develop and validate method for selected WFD relevant parameters.
- Train for principles and requirements of the EN ISO/IEC 17025 standard.
- Tailor technical trainings and trainings of selected management aspects, e.g. audit seminar for quality management (QM) staff.
- Conduct proficiency tests in water analysis for selected groups of parameters as an external quality control measure to prove performance of the involved laboratories.
- Conduct study visit to selected laboratories and administrative bodies of the consortium partners to demonstrate all aspects of accreditation and their implications in routine day-to-day practice.
- Undertake pre-audit assessment to reveal degree of compliance with the requirements of the ISO/IEC 17025 standard.

Dependencies and synergies

QM document drafts developed under the KURA Phase III project will be used. The detailed planning of this activity depends on the outcome of Activities 2.1.1 and 2.1.2.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

- Provision of technical support depends on the equipment purchased under Activity 2.1.2, raising the question of sustainability of investment.
- Laboratory staff are available and motivated to actively continue the required working steps between missions in a partly independent manner.
- Training on methodologies for analysing certain parameters needs a corresponding legal basis for monitoring of addressed substances.

Activity 2.2.1. Preparation of training plans and organisation of hands-on trainings and training of trainers with regard to monitoring and laboratory analyses and to support laboratories for accreditation

Summary of status

Though the relevant and responsible experts in the administrative bodies were involved in implementing the EPIRB project, the work was mainly done by EPIRB experts. The national administration has limited capacity on its own to accomplish or extend the WFD implementation to further river basins.

Summary of main objectives

- Create a critical mass of qualified staff that can independently develop and maintain the water monitoring and laboratory analysis in line with WFD requirements.
- Ensure qualified staff can further train national experts and increase the mass and capacity of qualified staff.
- Base training plans on upgrade and development plans defined under Activity 2.1.2.
- Ensure training documents are available and fit to use after the project ends.
Methodology/Steps of implementation

Administrative bodies need capacity building to ensure sustainability. Based on the status and achievements in the EPIRB pilot of the Akhuryan basin, the trainings will review and potentially update the RBMPs. They will be expanded to the new pilot of the Lake Sevan and Hrazdan and the Khrami-Debed basin. Training considers all WFD relevant aspects of GW, SW, quantitative, chemical, hydromorphological and biological monitoring.

- Jointly develop training plans, competence profiles and training targets derived from needs identified under Activities 2.1.1, 2.1.3 and 2.3.1 and the upgrade and development plans defined under Activity 2.1.2. The plans compile and co-ordinate the single training aspects throughout the project and will be adopted according to implementation progress and needs identified throughout the project phase.
- Revise and prepare corresponding training material.
- Provide intensive hands-on training on the following:
  - monitoring design (e.g. network, parameters, frequency, etc.) and management
  - sampling of quantitative, chemical and biological indicators and assessment of hydromorphology in close connection with Activities 2.3.4 and 2.3.5
  - use, calibration, maintenance of equipment and infrastructure for sampling, monitoring and laboratory analyses
  - evaluation of monitoring results and link to RBMPs
  - exchange of experience and trainings for selected topics of the EN ISO/IEC 17025 standard for laboratory accreditation
  - training of trainers for selected aspects
  - preparation of strategies, road maps, guidance and templates.

Dependencies and synergies

- Staff from other labs (e.g. from the National Center for Disease Control and Prevention of the Ministry of Health) are involved in trainings related to the ISO 17025 principles and requirements
- Junior experts are recruited and competencies and skills built during the project as needed.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

- Administrative staff are available and motivated to attend the trainings and implement the required working steps between training sessions in a partly independent manner.
- Capacities, and national funds and logistics are sufficient.
- Long-term assignment of respective staff is a precondition to sustainability of capacities.
Activity 2.3.1. Assessment of the needs and identification of priorities in implementation of the RBMPs

Summary of status

At national level, a model guideline for development of Water Basin Management Plans (WBMP)\(^7\) was developed and adopted in the form of a Government of Armenia Protocol Session Resolution in 2011. The Water Resources Management Agency of the Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia asked the EUWI+ project team to take a critical review of the Model Guideline and to propose measures to comply with the WFD and consistent with national legislation (e.g. water reserves, balance assessment, climate change adaptation, economic analysis, revised environmental flow methodology, etc.).

The RBMP model guideline (English version) covers a wide scope of topics, including some steps of the WFD, but doesn’t quite follow the logic and sequence of steps of WFD-compliant RBMPs.

Three of six Armenian River Basin Districts have drafted their RBMP (Akhuryan, Southern and Ararat). The government adopted the plans for Ararat River Basin District (RBD) and Southern RBD in March and May 2016, respectively; Akhuryan RBMP, an EPIRB pilot project, was adopted on March 2017. The remaining RBDs need to draft the plans.

Summary of main objectives

Delivery of the RBMP model guideline is expected in early June 2017 for submission to the government by 10 June 2017. New RBMPs under development will have to be based on the updated model, whereas existing RBMPs will be adjusted to the updated model when they reach the end of their implementation cycle.

Further integration of sectoral and regional development plans into RBMPs is also needed to create regulatory statements.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

There is a need to clearly state the purpose of a RBMP and to explain i) how it can be articulated with IWRM plans, emergency plans or operational management plans at different territorial scale; ii) how it informs decisions.

This action will require a review of both the latest legal amendment related to water management and of the previous proposals.

The government of Armenia formally adopted the Akhuryan RBMP on 9 March 2017 (Resolution 240-N). Following validation of the final RBMP model, it will need to examine its compliance with the national model.

\(^7\) Armenian Water code is using WBMP instead of RBMP
Dependencies and synergies

This activity could also be linked to some activities under Result 1 as regards the legal status of RBMPs for enforcing actions.

Activity 2.3.2. Technical support in the elaboration and implementation of the pilot RBMPs

Figure 4.1. The planning cycle of the EU WFD and its consecutive implementation steps

Summary of status

During the high-level kick-off meeting, the Minister of Nature Protection of Armenia clearly indicated the Hrazdan and Sevan Districts were priorities for development of RBMPs, including support to the two BMOs.

Both districts have very different, but interconnected, issues. The upstream part is mostly covered by Lake Sevan, which has had the status of a national park since 1974. It constitutes the national water reserve of the country, guarantees water for economic activities downstream in the Hrazdan basin, i.e. irrigation during summer and supply for hydropower plants. An ad-hoc law regulates the reserve, and the president chairs a specific decision board. A scientific commission chaired by the National Academy of Science is consulted for any project related to the lake, including releases from the lake. Annually, 15 Mm$^3$ (maximum annual volume, 1.6 m$^3$/s) of transfer from the Vorotan River on Ararat River Basin is targeted at increasing the lake water level and guaranteeing a minimal level of 1900m$^3$ to limit eutrophication and environmental damage.
Hrazdan basin, which includes the capital of Yerevan, covers 50,000 hectares (ha) of intensive irrigation land (45% of the national irrigated land), five main canals and many HPPs, including the cascade of HPPs on Hrazdan. It must guarantee a minimal discharge downstream for economic and national security activities. It is facing increasing water demand and rapidly decreasing artesian water in its lowest part. According to the law on Lake Sevan, irrigation has the priority release of up to 170 Mm³ from the lake during summer. The water of Hrazdan River is devoted to hydroelectricity for the rest of the year.

**Summary of main objectives**

- Refine the existing RBMP and support implementation of soft measures from the programme of measures of the River Basin Management Plan of the Akhuryan River Basin.

Conditions for implementation of key measures must be identified. In addition, the pilot demonstration must be used to draw recommendations applicable to other basins and to summarise the lessons learned for the benefit of replication.

- Develop two RBMPs for Hrazdan and Sevan basins with participation of the BMOs, local administrations (Marz), and representatives of stakeholders (university, national park, NGO, WUA...), based on the approaches of the EU Water Framework Directive and legislation of the water sector in Armenia.

Good status and non-deterioration are important for water bodies, but many other issues have been raised such as water security, water allocation based on proper balance, pollution and financial issues especially on Hrazdan. Water use by irrigation and HPPs needs more accurate measurement.

The project seeks to achieve the following targets:

- Technical RBMP elements in Lake Sevan and Hrazdan River Basin elaborated based on the reviewed/revised methodologies and guidance, and on available information and data.
- A critical mass of qualified staff is created and can continue independently to develop the technical elements of RBMP establishment, review and update.
- For the last objective, methodologies and guidance documents of relevant technical elements are tailored to the needs of Armenia and ready for national application; roadmap for country-wide implementation of technical RBMP elements is prepared.

**Methodology/Steps of implementation**

Supervision through learning-by-doing and provision of methodological support to the BMOs and other institutions most involved in operational management are the major points.

**Implementation of Akhuryan Programme of Measures**

The selection of the pilot measures among existing measures of the Akhuryan RBMP needs additional information and validation with the Country Focal Point. Measures could be related to the water status assessment, and monitoring or regulation including the following:
- restructuring of the SW and GW monitoring system (quantity and quality) to include relevant information directly related to the calculation of indicators in the dashboard, which is done in close relation to Activity 2.2.1
- detection of high arsenic concentrations in groundwater bodies around Armavir and Ashotzq, which could be addressed under Activity 2.3.4 (field surveys)
- review and improvement of water permit conditions, in close relation to Activity 1.1.4.
- introduction of provisions regarding flood risk management and support to develop an updated water balance in the context of climate change adaptation.

The EU MS (Member State) experts' team will support the competent authorities and project owners to implement the selected measures. To that end, it will draw on its experience in project management, preparation of studies and terms of references, implementation plans, mobilisation of funds, etc.

**Development of management plans for the Sevan and Hrazdan river basins**

The technical elements of RBMP elaboration cover SW and GW body delineation, SWB typology characterisation, pressures and impact assessment, monitoring network design, monitoring and risk and status assessment (chemistry, biology and quantity).

The strategic elements of RBMP elaboration cover identification of the significant water management issues, establishment of environmental objectives, economic analysis, establishment of the programmes of measures (PoM), public consultation, etc.

The project will provide support to competent authorities in the form of intensive hands-on training and workshops aligned to the WFD Guidance documents. These could include subjects such as water body delineation and characterisation, pressures and impact assessment, establishment of environmental objectives, design of monitoring programme, status and risk assessment covering the evaluation of monitoring results, economic analysis, development of program of measures, preparation of a RBMP, public consultation, etc.

BMOs will receive special support for methodology to implement tailor-made and accurate water balance calculation, specific to the basin.

Specific support will be provided to introduce provisions of the Flood Directive (FD) (country priority 21). Specific trainings and exchange of experience to develop capacities in the Armenian administration on FD and its implementation will be organised. They will relate to specific FD requirements, links with the WFD, logical steps of implementation, preliminary flood risk assessment and identification of areas of potential significant flood risk.

In addition, the development of several chapters of RBMP might be supported under tendered contract with national partners and consultants approved by the beneficiary. The winning contractor

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8 Some awareness raising materials on the FD were prepared during the EU Kura Phase II and Phase III projects, including translation of the FD into Armenian language. However, the FD approach has not been tested in the country.
will work closely with the planning unit of the beneficiary organisation in accordance with the detailed terms of reference. The EU MS experts’ team will provide technical and strategic support to both the contractor and the beneficiary in developing a compliant plan.

The RBMP development will roughly proceed according the following steps:

- Setting-up governance for the preparation of RBMP, organisation of regular co-ordination and consultation meetings with the main stakeholders and a wider public to facilitate further implementation of RBMP (in line with the WFD, see Result 3).
- Characterisation of river basin (WFD article 5) including: surface water and groundwater bodies delineation and characterisation, pressures assessment (domestic, industrial and agricultural) and impact analysis (especially impacts of hydropower plants on hydromorphology and environmental flows; water balance), protected areas delineation (drinking water protected areas, sensitive areas regarding urban wastewater or HPPs location, vulnerable zones towards nitrates from agriculture sources, specific zones for habitats, etc.), baseline and prospective scenarios to integrate trends for main pressures (national priority 23), economic analysis (water use, cost recovery – WFD article 9), main issues, risk analysis.
- Design of monitoring programme (surveillance and operational) and network (country priority 16, WFD article 8), establishment of a compliance regime for assessing water bodies status, assessment of water status (surface water and groundwater; biology, chemistry and quantity).
- Setting up environmental objectives (WFD article 4) for water bodies and protected areas.
- Programme of measures to ensure achievement of environmental objectives (WFD, article 11).
- Finalisation of the RBMP (WFD article 13). Given the several transfers from/to the Hrazdan and Sevan basins from/to neighbouring basins, consistency with existing RBMPs must be considered.

Elaboration of national guidelines

The MS experts’ team will develop national guidance documents in line with the WFD and associated directives. If necessary and in addition to EPIRB guidelines produced, the national guidelines will include specific examples gained from pilot basin experiences and will be adapted to country specificities. The guidelines will contain a portfolio of priority action cards to guide the different steps of planning and implementation.

Dependencies and synergies

- Link with Activities 2.3.1 (model guideline reviewed), 1.2.2 (organisation of trainings), 1.1.1. (especially on the methodology for environmental flow calculation), 2.3.6 (sufficient data – already available and those gathered under Activity 2.3.4 – which is needed for risk and status assessment) and Result 3 on stakeholders involvement, information and lessons learned from sharing and communication.
- Links with the activities about WB delineation (surface and groundwaters) and monitoring activities (ESCS, reference sites, regular monitoring, etc). Equipment for water meters should be considered not only at intake but also at distribution points for all uses (agriculture and energy), especially on Hrazdan Basin.
- The development of the Sevan and Hrazdan RBMPs will have to be consistent with the RBMP model guideline. This will be co-ordinated with Activity 2.3.6 on cadastre support for the definition of data exchanges and procedures for monitoring data. The detailed list of RBMP maps will be worked out in co-ordination with Activity 2.3.6 as well.
There are several projects outside the EUWI+ project in the water sector. USAID, for example, is reducing groundwater depletion in the Ararat Valley. KFW is funding the 25 Mm$^3$ Kaps Reservoir in Akhuryan Basin, including installation of SCADA system to measure inflow and outflow. Outside the EUWI+ project are some links with sectoral or development plans such as the Climate Risk Management-Project (UNDP), the Centre for Agribusiness and Rural Development (CARD) activities and the USAID ASPIRED project.

Actions should complement each other without overlap or interference.

**Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks**

The level of details in implementation highly depends on available data and information. Until 2008 each of the Sevan and Hrazdan BMOs employed six people; they now employ three each. This is very limited for supporting the development and implementation of RBMPs. The project will further assess capacity, and propose better sharing of tasks between the national planning department of the agency and BMOs.

As a prerequisite, the project needs to designate a person responsible for RBMP, possibly from the planning department of the agency. This person will supervise the progress and compliance of all the components on a continuous basis.

**Activity 2.3.3.  Technical support to the RBM institutions to tackle co-ordination in transboundary river basins**

**Summary of status**

This activity is part of the priorities expressed in Armenia (n° 13) to complement Georgian priorities to develop a full scale WFD-compliant RBMP for the Khrami-Debed Basin that is transboundary with Armenia. It could make sense to include harmonisation of the riparian water bodies delineation at the border in the work plan to facilitate shared vision and collaborative monitoring.

**Summary of main objectives**

The competent authorities in charge of RBMPs can implement a co-ordinated transboundary planning process to achieve the following:

- Consider the proper scale for river basin management – the river basin – even if transboundary basins may be more complex to manage than river basins exclusively within the national borders.
- Have a coherent approach and develop synergies with riparian countries for the planning process, particularly for sharing objectives and for defining the programme of measures.
- Take advantage and valorise the respective countries' experiences regarding RBMP and implementation of the WFD to capitalise on this experience more effectively.
- Promote broader co-ordination between the countries.

The project will also continue bilateral co-operation with Georgia to prepare ground for potential development of an umbrella plan for the Khrami-Debed transboundary basin and/or bilateral agreement on use of water resources in the basin. Examples of protocol used in different international commissions for practical work on this issue between the regional practitioners could be used.
Methodology/Steps of implementation

RBMP will be developed simultaneously on the Debed in Armenia and Georgia and there will be close consultation between the two development teams.

To support the competent authorities and line agencies to tackle co-ordination for transboundary river basin management, the MS experts’ team will:

- Support the setting up of a cross-boundary working group on RBMP.
- Support the working group to harmonise the two countries’ visions on the main issues.
- Support thematic working groups to consider transboundary aspects for the different steps of planning: harmonisation of the water bodies’ delineation, monitoring network, environmental objectives, etc.

A local consultant will organise this activity, which will involve meeting schedules, agendas, reports, follow-up of the activities, transboundary study tours with Georgia, etc.

Dependencies and synergies

Developing this activity, the MS experts’ team will carefully ensure co-ordination and promote synergies with RBMP plan development activities in the two countries. The Ecological Status Classification System (ESCS) developed under the EPIRB project will be applied to establish a common baseline in the upper catchments. A trigonal ESCS for the lower catchments using different biological elements will also be developed (see Activity 2.3.1 technical support).

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

The willingness of each country for cross-boundary works and assignment of sufficient human resources will be the main bottlenecks. Different rhythms and organisation between the countries could limit the global synergy. Harmonisation targets need to be defined based on the simultaneous development of the RBMPs on both sides of the border.

Activity 2.3.4. Carry out biological, ecological, chemicals surveys as needed to develop and implement the RBMPs, including intercalibration exercise and organisation of joint field surveys in transboundary rivers

Summary of status

Transboundary monitoring (together with Georgia) in the Khrami-Debed river basin is highly appreciated.

Summary of main objectives

- Contribute to the comparability of data between the shared Khrami-Debed River Basin.
- Ensure sufficient monitoring of data available (gap filling) to allow for review/update of the Akhuryan RBMP – respectively, the development of the new RBMP of the Lake Sevan and the Hrazdan Basin – in terms of characterisation and classification (risk and status
assessment) of SWBs and GWBs and the inter-calibration of national SW status assessment regimes under Activity 2.3.2
- Link biological monitoring experts from the region.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

- Develop monitoring schemes of field surveys and joint transboundary field surveys.
- Execute field surveys and joint transboundary surveys in SW and GW covering chemical (also priority substances), hydromorphological and biological indicators in close adjustment with Activity 2.2.1. Intensive hands-on training on:
  - sampling and monitoring of quantitative, chemical and biological indicators (including fish for upstream catchments) and in the assessment of hydromorphological indicators
  - use, calibration, maintenance of equipment and infrastructure for sampling, on-site monitoring and logistics, and sample treatment
  - evaluation of monitoring results
  - joint development of monitoring schemes, survey manuals, organisation of the surveys, mission reports and evaluation
  - use of data for the development of ecological classification systems for Khrami-Debed and Akhuryan.

Dependencies and synergies

- Synergies with Activity 2.2.1 (hands-on training) and Activity 2.1.3 (towards accreditation).
- Collaboration with other institutions also carrying out studies on lake Sevan (e.g.: Academy of Science, National Park).

Activity-specific assumptions: limitations; bottlenecks

- Transboundary SW and GW surveys in the Khrami-Debed need mutual commitment with Georgia on transboundary co-operation and willingness to share information and data.
- Junior experts are recruited, and competencies and skills built during the project as needed.
- Necessary additional equipment purchased under Activity 2.1.2 is in place.
- Capacities, national funds and logistics are sufficient.

Activity 2.3.5. Investigatory monitoring of water bodies at risk of high pollution or related issues

Summary of main objectives

- Discover reasons for unknown exceedances, the unknown reasons for risk or the causes of failure of good status or the magnitude and impacts of accidental pollution.
- Fill gaps of monitoring results for proper review/establishment of the programmes of measures of the RBMPs.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

- Jointly identify sites and parameters subject to investigatory monitoring, depending on the results of the pressure and risk assessments under Activity 2.3.2.
- Develop monitoring schemes, survey manuals, organisation of the surveys, mission reports and evaluation of the survey and the data gathered.

**Dependencies and synergies**

- Results of the pressure and risk assessments under Activity 2.3.2.

**Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks**

- The scope very much depends on the results of the pressure and risk assessments within the RBMP elaboration under Activity 2.3.2, the selected pollution cases, the substances concerned, and the sampling and laboratory equipment available.
- Necessary additional equipment purchased under Activity 2.1.2 is in place.
- Capacities, and national funds and logistics are sufficient.

**Activity 2.3.6. Development and strengthening of national databases on water related issues and ensure compliance of data with SEIS principles for collection and sharing of data**

**Summary of status**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Situation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legislation on data management</td>
<td>The water cadastre and feeding procedures were updated in a government resolution adopted on 2 February 2017.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WIS/water cadastre</td>
<td>The WRMA, through its State Water Cadastre and Monitoring division, is managing the State Water Cadastre: this information system was developed with the support of USAID. Today this cadastre includes a well-structured MS/SQL database and a set of geographical information managed in a geodatabase. These tools are administrated on a local area network within the Cadastre department, but are not accessible on line.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data sources</td>
<td>Various data sources are managed by various organisations in various formats (.mdb, xls and .doc).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities/ synergies</td>
<td>Up to now, the data flow/data exchanges are not automatised between partners, and various organisations are ready to test automatised data exchanges:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Hydromet</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Water resource committee economy</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Monitoring (qlt)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>Two experts from State Water Cadastre and Monitoring division are identified to follow on the job training.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Summary of main objectives

The national priority is requesting to Support strengthening and enhancement of the State Water Cadastre Information System (SWCIS) of Armenia, including support in development of automatized data exchange with key partner institutions of the SWCIS as well as provision of GIS training of the corresponding specialists from the beneficiary institutions.

Automatised processing from water data producer to feed the water information system, with valorisation of data online to facilitate:

- production of information for RBMP following needs
- access to data for SEIS indicator production
- better access to data and information to partners and to the public (following rights given by the initial data producers).

The main objective is to demonstrate, on a pilot action covering the three basins of Hrazdan, Sevan and Akhuryan, how data and information already available could be shared and regularly actualised directly by each institution, through automatic processes.

Concretely, the water cadastre would be accessible on line and fed on a daily base considering that the visited partner’s institutions are ready to test data exchanges on pilot area.

Two-three persons from the water cadastre department could be trained on the implemented tools and procedures so they could manage the implemented processes in connection with the partners.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

Figure 4.2 summarises the global approach.
The implementation of this approach will include activities related to:

Organisational aspects:

- adaptation of the bylaw on cadastre,
- data flow analysis,
- metadata production process,
- development of agreements with partners on data exchanges and public access, etc.

Technical aspects:

- acquisition server
- support to catalogue of metadata preparation/implementation,
- training for data flow organisation and data processing,
- development of an online pilot of demonstration with first automated data flow, processing for map and indicator production, etc.

Dependencies and synergies

- Country priority n° 20 Support in implementation of the soft measures from the programme of measures of the River Basin Management Plan of the Akhuryan River Basin District of Armenia, which the government is formally adopting
- Activities 2.1.1. & 2.1.2, 2.2.1 & 2.3.4, and 2.3.5 related to monitoring
- Activity 2.3.7. Establish a system for regular monitoring of the implementation of the RBMPs plans of action and support the use of evidence-based data for policy making and review of RBMP plans of action
- Activity 3.1.2: Organisation of exchanges in pilot projects to support public and stakeholder participation in the preparation, implementation, review and update of RBMPs developed under Result 2.

**Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks**

Good development of these activities requires the following:

- political will to organise water data sharing between institutions
- clear sharing of responsibilities and tasks between the various organisations involved in water data production/management and valorisation.
- availability of online server with possibilities to install the necessary software.
- availability of staff for:
  - technical management of the information system
  - organisation of data exchange between institutions.

**Activity 2.3.7. Establish a system for regular monitoring of the implementation of the RBMPs and support the use of evidence-based data for policy making**

**Summary of status**

While RBMPs follow six year-implementation cycles, Armenia is not committed to comply with the EU time schedule. However, in line with the WFD principle, the second half of the implementation period shall be used for preparing the next cycle based on an assessment of ongoing measures.

While Armenia has achieved significant progress in development and formal adoption of RBMPs, the implementation of plans needs to be enhanced. Decision makers must become aware of the financial and economic benefits of the programme of measures to sustain financial support.

**Summary of main objectives**

- Raise awareness of decision makers on the need for reliable indicators to assess RBMP implementation and reorient regional water policies if needed.
- Provide tools for easy visualisation and understanding, such as a dashboard.

It will be focused on EPIRB pilot Akhuryan River Basin.

**Methodology/Steps of implementation**

This activity will analyse the existing set of indicators and complete it to cover implementation of the PoM, considering both the relevance of the indicators and availability of regular data.

The implementation steps are as follows:
- Analyse in detail programme of measures and categorisation/typology of measures, including responsibilities.
- Identify/develop appropriate indicators to monitor implementation of measures.
- Analyse available indicators: gather national policy papers from the different sectors and identify measures implemented in EPIRB pilot river basin; study the possibility to use the work done on the SDGs; develop practices to use socio-economic data to extrapolate quantified information about pressures; water resources status; etc.
- Propose a procedure and responsibilities for regularly evaluating the implementation progress.
- Prepare set of data necessary for an interim report about implementation of the PoM.

Actions will consist of trainings and desk support for linking indicators to decision making.

**Dependencies and synergies**

To optimise work on the dashboard, the activity will be closely connected to Activity 2.3.6. Development and strengthening of national databases on water-related issues; compliance of data with SEIS principles for collection and sharing of data.

In this logic, different administrative bodies in charge of implementing the activity should use a regularly updated database as much as possible to select the right indicators.

This activity is associated to Activity 2.3.2 about implementation of the pilot RBMP.

**Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks**

Given the four-year length of the project and the time needed to collect and validate data, some results will be difficult to highlight. However, the methodology will be familiar. Consistency with sectoral plans will be sought.

**Activity 3.1.1. Development, regular update and implementation of a communication strategy for the project.**

**Summary of status**

Communication and public awareness are an integral part of most previous technical assistance or institutional support projects. The present project will continue to work in this direction based on the results and considering the achievements and recommendations of previous projects and current trends. In this respect, attention is drawn to the following:

- Analysis on the requirements of the Armenian legislation for stakeholders’ involvement by the EU Kura Phase II has been used to assess current needs.
- The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) has assisted the Armenian government in setting up and operating the Aarhus Sustainability Network, a public environmental information centre for public participation and regional co-operation.
**Summary of main objectives**

Effective communication with targeted stakeholders and the public is essential for in-depth involvement in the implementation and decision process; for raising awareness of the need for protecting the water; and for the need of integrated water management. The main objectives of this result are:

- Support the policy process, influence specific policies or policy makers around key aspects of the IWRM.
- Encourage participation among key stakeholders.
- Build awareness about the project among a wide, but defined group of audiences and user groups.

**Methodology/Steps of implementation**

The project supports the beneficiary in developing and annually updating a communication strategy and promoting the diffusion of the project results. It will focus on two activities:

- strengthening communication and awareness raising
- co-ordinating a stakeholder involvement strategy at national and basin scales.

Core activities underpinning public participation and communication strategies will include:

- Development and regular update of a communication strategy for the whole project and for Armenia, in particular.
- Implementation of a communication strategy:
  - Prepare and publish information materials: leaflets on the national components (in English and Armenian), brochures on pilot demonstrations, project newsletter, press releases, media articles.
  - Develop and maintain project website with a country webpage.
  - Promote activities related to effective communication with targeted stakeholders and to a wider public: public awareness campaign on IWRM, school information sessions, conferences, seminars and workshops, roundtables and other events, press briefings or meetings with journalists.

The listed steps of implementation are all addressed and listed in the Communication and Visibility Plan (Annex to the DoA).

**Dependencies and synergies**

This is a cross-cutting issue with many synergies at basin, national and international levels with activities under Results 1 and 2.
Activity 3.1.2. Organisation of exchanges in pilot projects to support public and stakeholder participation in the preparation, implementation, review and update of RBMPs developed under Result 2

Summary of status

According to requirements of the Armenian legislation, key stakeholders in the basin are invited for discussions at each key stage of basin plan development. This was done for three RBMPs. However, the Armenian legislation does not require the establishment of basin council. There were some examples in the past, but institutions based on a donor-driven process did not survive the project in the absence of sustainable financial mechanisms.

Agriculture is a strategic sector facing social, environmental, economic and financial issues. Involvement of Water Users Associations in decision making for water planning is not achieved yet.

Summary of main objectives

- Support the BMOs of the Sevan and Hrazdan basins to mobilise stakeholders to discuss each key stage of RBMP development in line with the three compulsory consultations foreseen in WFD article 14.
- Enable the public to access monitoring information as a result of pilot development in Sevan and Hrazdan basins (activity on information system enhancement).

Methodology/Steps of implementation

- Support implementation of soft measures from the programme of measures of the Akhuryan River Basin Management Plan. Implementation of measures requires the involvement of local stakeholders and a clear identification of their interest in the actions.

Although the establishment of basin council/committee is not legally required, the development of the RBMP requires an important involvement of interested parties at basin scale.

Main activities will include the following:

- Identify and mobilise relevant stakeholders in the pilot basins to establish stakeholders dialogue at basin level: all socio-economic actors, general public and organisations that may engage in consultation.
- Develop mechanisms for stakeholders’ participation to RBMPs.
- Establish a platform to involve representatives from governmental representatives, NGOs/CSOs, private sector, etc.
- Prepare the consultation strategy in the pilot basins in line with the legal and administrative setup developed in Result 1.

- Develop functioning rules for operational stakeholders’ dialogue platform (composition, consultation and decision making, role of the secretariat, etc.).
- Hold training and coaching on how to facilitate consultation workshops with selected stakeholders:
organisation and facilitation of meetings with stakeholders to build consensus on shared objectives of RBMPs.

- Consult on work plan and pre-identification of main issues.
- Consult on programme of measures to tackle the objectives and draft RBMP.
  - stakeholders’ involvement actions in and users’ involvement on thematic issues in priority areas (to be determined).
- Develop a communication strategy for each basin.
- Public information and awareness raising on results of pilot development in Sevan, Hrazdan and Akhuryan basins.
- Summarise the key points from the RBMPs in plain language to reach the general public, in link with Activity 3.1.1.

Dependencies and synergies

This is a cross-cutting issue with many synergies at basin and national levels with Activities 2.3.1, 2.3.2 and 2.3.6, and also with Result 1.

Activity 3.1.3. Establishment of a mechanism to harmonise practices and share information and communication with practitioners involved in WFD implementation and/or IWRM in the six EaP countries

Summary of main objectives

- Establish a mechanism to harmonise practices and share information and communication with practitioners involved in IWRM implementation at national level.
- Support the WRMA to co-ordinate national working groups and public consultation to develop among key interested parties a common understanding of the aim of RBMPlans and maintain communication on actions in each river basin.
- Facilitate technical thematic meetings and establish working groups for key issues at national level.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

- Develop EUWI+ East data and information platform and the project website with a country webpage: web-based information exchange platform providing the different results in relation to activity 2.3.6 and 3.1.1.
- Hold ad hoc technical thematic meetings and establish working groups for key issues.
- Organise trainings and study tours, awareness raising and dissemination of project results (in link with activities under Results 1 and 2).
- Prepare summary reports on the events to consolidate and harmonise practices in the different basins and list participants.
Dependencies and synergies

This is a cross-cutting issue with many synergies at national and international levels with Activities 2.3.1, 2.3.2 and 2.3.6, and also with Result 1.

Results 1 and 2 are mutually influential. As the legal and administrative framework builds the basis for RBMPlanning and strengthens IWRM, the experiences gained from the pilot RBMPs identify needs to further adapt the legal and administrative framework accordingly. Continuous communication and linkages between both results are therefore essential.

Activity 3.1.4. Organisation of international events including study visits to harmonise practices and share information and communication on WFD implementation, IWRM and MEAs

Summary of main objectives

- Promote and support harmonised practices and exchange of experience on WFD with practitioners involved in WFD implementation and/or IWRM in the six EaP countries.
- Facilitate exchange of experience with Georgia.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

- Develop a mechanism for discussion of the harmonisation of water bodies at the Georgian border involving local practitioners and contribute to cross-border co-operation and support to bilateral working groups especially for Khrami-Debed basin.
- Organise international events (study visits, workshops, trainings) to harmonise practices and share information on WFD implementation, IWRM and MEAs.
- Network and develop information exchange with relevant institutions and stakeholders: i.e. participation in the International Network of Basin Organisations, twinning exchanges, international forums and conferences.

Dependencies and synergies

This activity has a strong link with Results 1 and 2, as well as Activities 3.1.1 and 3.1.3 (web-based information exchange platform).

4.3. Organisation and steering structure

Project registration

The registration of EUWI+ Results 2 and 3, i.e. the EU Member State Consortium grant contract, in Armenia, has begun. The progress, which requires a letter of certification by the Ministry of Finance, is not yet completed.

Regional-level arrangements

Regionally, a Project Steering Committee, consisting of six delegations of each EaP country, representatives of the international project partners and representatives of the European Union, is
to be established. Its meeting structure and functions are well defined in the DoA and are not repeated here. The Minister of Nature Protection in Armenia appointed Mr Vahan Davtyan, Head of the Water Resources Management Agency and Mr Volodya Narimanyan, Deputy Chairman of the State Committee on Water Systems, as the two National Focal Points (NFP) of Armenia responsible for EUWI+.

**National-level arrangements**

Activity 1.1.2 in national work plan describes the role of the national NPD Steering Committee as main oversight mechanism.

A National Executive Strategic Board has not formally been established. Its meeting structure and functions are well defined in the DoA and are not repeated here.

**Expert-level structures**

The Armenian and international partners have agreed to nominate lead thematic experts to streamline the co-ordination and communication of the main thematic areas of expertise for implementation of the Action (Table 4.5).

**Table 4.5. Expert-level structure**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Result</th>
<th>International thematic lead expert</th>
<th>Armenian thematic lead expert</th>
<th>supported by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Result 1</td>
<td>OECD and UNECE Project Managers and Thematic Experts</td>
<td>Volodya Narimanyan, Deputy Chairman of the State Committee on Water Systems, Ministry of Energy Infrastructures and Natural Resources</td>
<td>Vahan Davtyan, Head of the Water Resources Management Agency, Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Result</td>
<td>International thematic lead expert</td>
<td>Armenian thematic lead expert</td>
<td>supported by</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R 2 Surface water monitoring</td>
<td>Kristina Schaufler (AT)</td>
<td>Vahan Davtyan, Head of the Water Resources Management Agency, Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia</td>
<td>Simon Papyan, Director of the Environmental Monitoring and Information Centre of the Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia Levon Azizyan, Deputy Director of the Armenian State Hydrometeorological Service of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Armenia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R 2 Groundwater monitoring</td>
<td>Christoph Leitner (AT)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Simon Papyan, Director of the Environmental Monitoring and Information Centre of the Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R 2 Laboratories</td>
<td>Philipp Hohenblum (AT)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Gayane Shahnazaryan, Deputy Director of the Environmental Monitoring and Information Centre of the Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R 2 Data management</td>
<td>Paul Haener (FR)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hrant Zakaryan, Head of the Division for Operation of Water Resources Cadastre and Monitoring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R 3 Communication</td>
<td>Yunona Videnina (FR)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Armen Vardanyan, Head of Information and PR Department of the Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Country Representatives**

The aim and functions of Country Representatives are well defined in the DoA and not repeated here.
The Country Representative of UNECE and OECD and of the EU Member State Consortium in Armenia, who helps implement Result 1, 2 & 3, is Mr Vahagn Tonoyan.
4.4 Work Plan and Milestones for Armenia (Gantt Chart)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Result / Activity</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inception report</td>
<td>Project Team</td>
<td>UNECE/OECD</td>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>OECD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Result 1 - Legislation Policy and institutional strengthening</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.1 Needs assessment and identification of priorities in the area of support on legislative, economic, and RBM issues</td>
<td>UNECE/OECD</td>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>OECD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.2 Organisation of NPD meetings and review of progress</td>
<td>UNECE/OECD</td>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>OECD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.3 Organisation of Regional Meetings and Project Steering Committee Meetings</td>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>OECD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.4 Ad hoc support to national processes related to the adoption of law regulations and implementation of RBMPs, national plans on harmonisation of legal and normative acts with the requirements of the WFD, IWRM and MEAs</td>
<td>UNECE/OECD</td>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>OECD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.4 Analysis of &quot;harmful&quot; subsidies in irrigation sector</td>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>OECD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.4 Development of a policy package on HPP water use efficiency</td>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>OECD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.4 Support; revision of the Water Code of Armenia and develop separate chapter on sanitation</td>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>OECD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2.1 Needs assessment and identification of priorities in the area of capacity development</td>
<td>UNECE/OECD</td>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>OECD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Result 2 - River Basins Management Plans designed and implemented in line with the WFD principles</td>
<td>UBA/IOW</td>
<td>UBA/IOW</td>
<td>UBA/IOW</td>
<td>UBA/IOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.1 Assessment of monitoring and laboratory infrastructure capacities and needs</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>UBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.2 Purchase of equipment, including hydrological and water quality monitoring stations and rehabilitation and upgrade of existing equipment and existing laboratories</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>UBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.3 Technical support to laboratories for accreditation</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>UBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.1 Preparation of training plans and organisation of hands-on trainings and training of trainers with regard to monitoring and laboratory analyses and to support laboratories for accreditation</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>UBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.1.1 Assessment of the needs and identification of priorities in implementation of the RBMPs</td>
<td>UBA/IOW</td>
<td>UBA/IOW</td>
<td>UBA/IOW</td>
<td>UBA/IOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.1.2 Technical Support in the elaboration and implementation of the pilot RBMPs</td>
<td>UBA/IOW</td>
<td>UBA/IOW</td>
<td>UBA/IOW</td>
<td>UBA/IOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.1.3 Technical Support to the RBM institutions to tackle coordination in transboundary river basins</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>UBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.1 Carrying out biological, ecological, chemical surveys as needed to develop and implement the RBMPs, including intercalibration and transboundary activities</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>UBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.1 Investigatory monitoring of water bodies at risk of high pollution or related issues</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>UBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.6 Development and strengthening of national databases on water-related issues &amp; ensure compliance of data with SEIS principles for collection and sharing of data</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>UBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.7 Establish a system for regular monitoring of the implementation of the RBMPs programme of measures &amp; support the use of evidence-based data for policy making and review of RBMPs programme of measures</td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td>IOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Result 3 - Lessons learnt regularly collected, shared and communicated to stakeholders</td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td>IOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.1 Development, regular update and implementation of a communication strategy for the project</td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td>IOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.2 Organisation of exchanges in pilot projects to support public and stakeholder participation in the preparation, implementation, review and update of RBMPs developed under result 2</td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td>IOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.3 Establishment of a mechanism to harmonise practices and share information and communication with practitioners involved in WF D implementation and/or IWRM in the 6 EaP countries</td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td>IOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.4 Organisation of international events (E) including study visits (SV) to harmonise practices and share information and communication on WFD implementation, IWRM and MEAs</td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td>IOW</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.5 Risks and mitigation measures

The following risks have been identified key for Armenia for which specific mitigation measures are proposed:

Risk 1: Governments are unstable.

The project will continue building and maintaining contacts at a variety of political and administrative levels. This provides some continuity, even in the case of political or staff changes. In the past, short-term administrative instabilities have not significantly disturbed longer-term co-operation. In addition, international co-operation and peer pressure (through EU Delegations) are strong driving forces for water policy reforms and continuation of policy dialogue on this issue.

Risk 2: Reliable data for robust analytical work are not available.

The project team has accumulated experience in EaP countries to make the best use of existing data, to mobilise local expertise, and to refer to expert knowledge when needed. Co-ordination with other projects (e.g. USAID, WB) will provide opportunities to share data and identify common sets of indicators in areas of mutual interest.

Risk 3: Absorption capacity is not sufficient to implement the Action effectively.

Lessons learned from prior activities in the target sector in the EaP countries indicate that absorption capacity on national and/or local levels can be the main bottleneck for successful and sustainable implementation of this project. First, absorption capacities can be limited due to the low number of available experts (headcount) and by their know-how and experience (knowledge). Second, absorption capacities can be limited because knowledgeable experts, whether trained within the project or not, get dismissed or voluntarily leaving their positions, organisations or the sector at all.

Absorption capacities will be a constant element of national and regional steering committee meetings and the NPD process. Close co-ordination with the multi-donor co-ordination units of the water sector in Armenia will ensure identification of potential risks due to parallel activities in the sector. It should also allow decisions on appropriate counter measures. Expertise by local consultants can help overcoming potential bottlenecks.
Chapter 5: Azerbaijan

This chapter was developed based on analysis of country-specific official data, information from previous projects, outcomes of interviews with stakeholders in Azerbaijan and a joint prioritisation exercise. After presenting the background for action and cross-cutting issues, the scope of activities is described. The Regional Steering Committee endorsed the country-specific work plan in May 2017.

5.1. Country background and scoping of project work

Azerbaijan is a water-poor country with an average 1 000 m$^3$ of water per capita available per year. Over two-thirds of surface water in Azerbaijan originates from neighbouring upstream countries and water quality is often a concern. In addition, water resources of the country are distributed unevenly. Absheron and Kura-Aras lowlands are the most water-poor regions, where river run-off amounts to only 10-20% of total annual run-off during the vegetation period. Water quality is affected by discharges of untreated municipal and industrial wastewaters, as well as by diffused pollution from agriculture. While access to water supply and sanitation services is relatively high throughout the region, especially in urban areas, the quality of services is not always sufficient.

Water policy in Azerbaijan is mainly implemented through water legislation, particularly, through the Water Code (1997). According to the code, water resource management water and economic balances, the integrated water resource use and protection plan, the water cadastre and water use records should combine hydrological and administrative-territorial principles. However, the Water Code does not directly address integrated water resource management (IWRM). There is need to update the code by adopting secondary legislation that applies the principles of IRWM and integrated river basin management (IRBM).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 5.1. Water resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average annual precipitation (mm/year)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total renewable water resources (10$^6$ m$^3$/year)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total renewable water resources (m$^3$/inhab/year)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total water withdrawal (10$^6$ m$^3$/year) in 2005 :</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Irrigation + livestock (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Municipalities (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Industry (%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Key challenges Azerbaijan faces concerning water resource management include the following:

- limited or obsolete regulatory and institutional frameworks
- deficient water allocation mechanisms and flood protection management
- weak incentives for water-use efficiency and underdeveloped policy mixes
- slow adoption and implementation of River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs)
There is a need to reform water sector policies and improve regulatory and institutional frameworks to bring them in line with IRWM principles. Another task is the introduction/upgrade of several economic instruments for water resources management. Water allocation rules as well as flood protection management should be further developed. Incentives for water-use efficiency should be identified and implemented, using a mix of policy instruments.

Table 5.2. Water sector indicators and status in 2017: Azerbaijan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overall national indicators</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The pace of convergence with the EU acquis aligns with commitments. Status of harmonisation of WFD principles in Water Code/water law</td>
<td>No obligation to harmonise with EU directives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protocol on Water and Health to the Water Convention</td>
<td>Party, national targets drafted, but not adopted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes</td>
<td>Party.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inclusive platforms created/revived to support water sector reforms and stakeholder participation in water governance</td>
<td>National Policy Dialogue serves a water co-ordination and co-operation national platform; it became an established practice with strong ownership of national water authorities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progress towards achievement of water-related SDG 6 “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”</td>
<td>On track. No specific country indicators developed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Implementation of major principles of EU water acquis</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation of basin principle: River Basin Management practices contribute to stabilise or decrease pressure on water resources</td>
<td>There is no legal basis for development or adoption of basin plans and basins are not delineated. Nevertheless, draft plans for the Alazani-Ganikh and Central Kura river basins were developed in recent years with help from international projects. The plans are still draft and not officially adopted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advancement in institutional arrangements for water resources management (RBOs) and River Basin Councils</td>
<td>Since Azerbaijan manages water resources based on the administrative-territorial principle, it has not yet established basin management organisations or any public River Basin Council.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved water allocation rules and planning</td>
<td>Rules and practices need to be updated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic instruments (like appropriate tariff setting) are applied in water management</td>
<td>Water costs recovery (incl. environmental and resource costs) is partial (O&amp;M and capital costs recovery).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Needs for capacity development and regional activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation of representatives/officials in joint (intersectoral or transboundary) meetings, assessments, trainings, monitoring, etc.</td>
<td>Yes, regularly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparedness and capacity to assess interactions and trade-offs between sectors and to identify solutions</td>
<td>Capacity needs further development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge base to support transboundary co-operation</td>
<td>Capacity needs further development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequency and coverage, representativeness and quality of monitoring</td>
<td>Needs further strengthening.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inter-agency/cross-border joint monitoring and laboratory exercises</td>
<td>Carried out, but not regularly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applied improved procedures and international standards (QA, laboratory analysis etc.)</td>
<td>Partially.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exchange and regional harmonisation of practices</td>
<td>Needs to be improved.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Author’s own elaboration.
Support to water sector reform through the EUWI+ project

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) and associated directives encompass a large proportion of the EU water acquis and the RBMP process provides an attractive and structured methodology based on IWRM principles. Azerbaijan started negotiating a new agreement with the EU that will upgrade political relations; a convergence with key elements of EU water directives is expected to be central. It’s a challenge for the country as water management and governance is under-funded. Many key technical institutions depend on support from the donor community.

Implementation of the WFD is demanding in terms of financial and technical resources. It is a challenge for Azerbaijan, which has many competing priorities as it strives to reform its entire economy. Azerbaijan has invested significantly in the water sector in agriculture and water supply, but the regulatory framework has received less attention. Management for the water sector is split between the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources and the Water Agency under the Ministry of Emergencies. The country is keen to approximate to the WFD, but with some limitations. Its priority is a long-term vision, and the national strategy is seen as an important first step. Technical capacity needs further strengthening, although recently some international projects provided support in this area.

The objective of the EUWI+ project is to support six Eastern Neighbourhood countries, including Azerbaijan, in the water sector reforms at different stages and levels – basin, national and transboundary. Result 1 of EUWI+ will strengthen the legal and regulatory framework at all levels by supporting development of national water legislation. Result 2 will address the review and evaluation of monitoring and support development of new RBMPs, and management of data and information. Result 3 will help establish decision making structures at the basin level.

Key stakeholders consulted during the kick-off missions

The project team has extensively assessed the implementation status across each of the three result areas in the six countries, in close consultation with the beneficiaries, to establish project priorities and targets. The EUWI+ national kick-off meeting in Baku on 28 November 2016 presented the scope of the project. It also gathered reaction from a broad range of stakeholders such as representatives of ministries, agencies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and donor projects. One-on-one meetings with key stakeholders gathered information to form a baseline and identify country needs. In January 2017, National Focal Point of Azerbaijan provided EUWI+ project team with an updated list of potential priorities, which further informed the needs assessment.
Table 5.3. Institutions and organisations met during the kick-off mission

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution/organisation</th>
<th>Meeting objective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MENR): Environmental Policy Department International Relations Department National Environmental Monitoring Department National Hydrometeorology Department National Geology Service Scientific Research Hydrometeorology Institute</td>
<td>EUWI+ organisation and implementation in Azerbaijan, needs assessment and priorities for water sector reform Continuation of NPD process Needs assessment for river basin planning and monitoring Needs for capacity development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Resources State Agency (WRSA) of Ministry of Emergency Situations</td>
<td>EUWI+ implementation in Azerbaijan, needs assessment and priorities for water sector reform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Health</td>
<td>EUWI+ implementation in Azerbaijan, implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) (Protocol on Water and Health)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRWPI of Amelioration JSC Ministry of Agriculture</td>
<td>Inclusive intersectoral co-operation platform, river basin planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Economy</td>
<td>Inclusive intersectoral co-operation platform, river basin planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azersu JSC</td>
<td>EUWI+ implementation in Azerbaijan, implementation of MEAs (Protocol on Water and Health)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture</td>
<td>EUWI+ implementation in Azerbaijan, needs assessment for data and information management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Energy</td>
<td>EUWI+ implementation in Azerbaijan, inclusive co-operation through National Policy Dialogue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Academy of Science Geology Institute</td>
<td>EUWI+ implementation in Azerbaijan, inclusive co-operation through National Policy Dialogue, capacity development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baku State University</td>
<td>EUWI+ implementation in Azerbaijan, inclusive co-operation through National Policy Dialogue, capacity development</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This mission resulted in a comprehensive list of priorities compiled by involved national partners. Based on priorities identified during the meetings and follow-up consultations, the project team developed a matrix that properly assessed identified needs and identified specific activities. The priorities were turned into specific activities for a country work plan presented in Section 5.4.

Overview of the inception phase findings

The project team has extensively assessed the status across each three result areas in the six countries, in close consultation with the beneficiaries to establish project priorities and targets.

The implementing partners recognised that strengthening water governance is a long-term task that would transcend the timeframe of a single project. Any achievement must lay down foundations for subsequent developments in the project design. All countries adopted a structured, incremental approach, building towards implementation or approximation of the WFD at the heart of their strategies. The country work plans address all elements – legal and policy development, institutional
reform, capacity building, investment and implementation – in a coherent manner. In this way, no one single element over-runs another. Instead, they are linked and move forward together and in synchrony. The need for any water governance system to be affordable in the medium and long term has been of prime concern for the design. Any system also needs flexibility to adjust to ever-changing political and economic circumstances.

To help establish the legal and institutional framework, the project will do the following:

- Help establish primary legislation for implementation or approximation of the WFD and secondary legislation for its technical application.
- Help develop strategies for WFD implementation in the short to medium term based on affordability and cost effectiveness.
- Help countries meet their obligations under Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) such as the Water Convention.
- Improve capacity of the main laboratories to comply with WFD monitoring requirements and to obtain enhanced accreditation at national and international level.
- Enhance capacity in ecological and biological monitoring including development of Ecological Status Classification Systems for upper and lower catchments and coastal zones.
- Strengthen monitoring systems for both surface water (SW) and groundwater (GW), and water quantity and quality.
- Increase capacity in RBMP in accordance with the WFD including in Associated Agreement countries’ maximum coverage of the first cycle of plans.
- Create mechanisms within the planning procedure for maximum integration of water sectors and uses with emphasis on the Flood, Nitrates, UWWT and Habitat directives.
- Establish institutions for the elaboration and implementation of RBMP at the national and basin level.
- Establish public consultation procedure in RBMPlanning in pilot basins.

The project will, in the delivery of the above, help the countries move towards their selected goals and agendas in a constructive fashion and in a manner tailored to their political and economic landscapes. The specific progress/target indicators under the EUWI+ project for Azerbaijan are provided in Table 5.4.

**Table 5.4. Baseline and targets for key indicators to be addressed by EUWI+ for Azerbaijan (progress indicators)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Baseline (2016)</th>
<th>Target/Progress (2020)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overall national indicators</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progress towards achievement water-related SDG 6 &quot;Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all&quot;</td>
<td>Indicators to monitor progress towards SDG 6 (and other water-related SDGs) are being developed.</td>
<td>Country targets and indicators for SDG 6 established. Ad hoc methodological support provided in monitoring the progress towards SDG6 targets. Regional exchange on common challenges and lessons learned provided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicators</td>
<td>Baseline (2016)</td>
<td>Target/Progress (2020)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inclusive platforms created/revived to support water sector reforms and</td>
<td>NPD process is well established (since 2010).</td>
<td>NPD on water is a recognised platform to facilitate stakeholder engagement and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stakeholder participation in water governance</td>
<td></td>
<td>participation in water governance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved water allocation rules and planning</td>
<td>Procedures are based on an outdated approach and do not reflect the basin</td>
<td>Rules and practices have been updated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>principle of water resources management.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic instruments (like appropriate tariff setting) are applied in</td>
<td>Water costs recovery (incl. environmental and resource costs) is partial</td>
<td>Reform implementation started towards water costs recovery (O&amp;M, and capital costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>water management</td>
<td>(operation and maintenance [O&amp;M], and costs recovery).</td>
<td>recovery)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation of major principles of EU water acquis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RBMP for Kura upstream</td>
<td>Review and assessment of available data and plan.</td>
<td>RBMP or Kura upstream Mingachevir dam developed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mingachevir reservoir in line with WFD principles</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support for strengthening GW and SW monitoring programme in Kura pilot</td>
<td>Biological monitoring not very much developed, restricted to macrozoobenthos,</td>
<td>Monitoring network and systems assessed. Training plan developed. Personnel trained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hydrographic district towards WFD compliance</td>
<td>and limited number of trained biologists. GW monitoring network needs upgrade</td>
<td>in WFD-relevant monitoring methodologies and ecological assessment and training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(rehabilitation of wells and springs).</td>
<td>material available. GW and SW monitoring programme in Kura pilothydrographic district</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support to laboratories analysis: quality management, training and</td>
<td>The MENR laboratory in Baku holds a national accreditation, but not an</td>
<td>in line with the WFD principles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>equipment</td>
<td>international certificate. Laboratories in Ganja, Masali and Quba assist with</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>monitoring. A limited number of priority substances is covered to date.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support to harmonise RBMP on Kura with Georgia with a focus at the border</td>
<td>Laboratories assessed. Training plan developed. Personnel in WFD relevant</td>
<td>Successful harmonisation of RBMP on Kura with Georgia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and on transboundary issues</td>
<td>monitoring methodologies, QA/QC and accreditation topics trained and training</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>material available. Existing/new laboratory equipment/infrastructure installed.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MENR laboratory in Baku prepared for international accreditation. Laboratories</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>participated in proficiency testing schemes for selected WFD relevant groups of</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>parameters. Study visit to EU MS laboratories for lab personnel carried out.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Implementation of major principles of EU water acquis**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Baseline (2016)</th>
<th>Target/Progress (2020)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Training programme to strengthen RBMP capacity building</td>
<td>Lack of human resources for RBMPs development.</td>
<td>Training programme established and implemented.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPIRB pilot RBMP refined and implementation of selected measures</td>
<td>EPIRB project drafted Kura’s right bank tributaries. Some measures are implemented on the EPIRB pilot basin, but far from IWRM process.</td>
<td>Based on the assessment report findings and the development of new pilot RBMP on the Kura upstream Mingachevir dam, refined EPIRB pilot RBMP in line with the WFD principles. At least three measures have been implemented on EPIRB Central Kura basin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New pilot RBMP</td>
<td>EPIRB pilot RBMP concerned three Kura’s left bank tributaries.</td>
<td>Full-scale Kura upstream Mingachevir dam RBMP developed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National guidelines established</td>
<td>EPIRB project has prepared guidelines.</td>
<td>Updated and improved national guidelines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transboundary working groups created for Kura transboundary process</td>
<td>Development of the Kura agreement with Georgia opens opportunities for transboundary co-operation to harmonise RBMP process in the Kura basin.</td>
<td>Governance implemented (working group, thematic groups), at least two annual meetings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of automatised processing from water data producers to feed the water information system, with valorisation of data online</td>
<td>The Water Code briefly mentions the water cadastre.</td>
<td>Recommendations report on strengthening data management, support to data management and valorisation (web service, process of data valorisation).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procedure and tool for evaluating PoM’s implementation progress</td>
<td>PoM’s implementation is delayed because of lack of funding and methodological support.</td>
<td>Dashboard or other tool; procedure guidelines; PoM draft implementation report.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<p>| Lessons learned are regularly collected, shared and communicated to stakeholders |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Communication strategy is in place at basin, national and regional scale to efficiently share and communicate to main interested parties and the wider public | Communication strategies have been developed in the EPIRB project pilot basins and partially implemented. There is no established communication strategy or campaigns at national scale on RBMP implementation. | Communication strategy developed including consistent tested actions at different scales to support NPD and RBMPlanning implementation. Mechanism for sharing information and communication between Result 1 and Result 2 established (e.g. web- based information exchange platform). |
| Evidence of use of communication tools developed and implemented                | Communication tools have been developed in the EPIRB project pilot basins and partially implemented.                                                                               | Basin- and country-wide implementation of communication tools (awareness-raising events, information materials, websites, press releases, social media, E-learning, workshops) at basin, national and regional scale. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Baseline (2016)</th>
<th>Target/Progress (2020)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number and audience of targeted communication actions in line with the strategy implemented</td>
<td>The prevailing situation in 2017 in the water sector as investigated during the early implementation phase.</td>
<td>Significant increase of targeted communication actions and audience for stakeholders’ involvement and public awareness raising on sound water resources management by the end of the project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of national institutions and organisations using IWRM knowledge and lessons learned generated for research, planning and policy making</td>
<td>There are few forums for delivery of lessons learned at the national level and none at the basin level – the NPDs being an obvious example. Lessons learned are communicated, but not in a consistent and targeted manner.</td>
<td>Appropriate mechanisms developed to efficiently share lessons learned among main interested parties and stakeholders to harmonise positions on strategic documents (RBMP, thematic and sectoral plans, methodologies, regulation). Significant increase of ownership of strategic documents derived from water-related EU <strong>acquis</strong>, IWRM and MEAs by the end of the project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence of stakeholder participation mechanisms at basin, national and international levels</td>
<td>Key institutional stakeholders in the basin are being invited for discussions at each key stage of basin plan development, under the EPIRB project. Public participation and involvement remain limited.</td>
<td>Development of practices and progressive institutionalising of mechanisms to engage stakeholders. Sustainable consensus building mechanisms in place at the end of the project to harmonise positions on strategic documents among main interested parties and stakeholders at the three main scales worked out in the communication strategy.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Author’s own elaboration.

**Institutional development and sustainability**

The Action EUWI+ is built on lessons learned from several EU development initiatives in the water sector in Azerbaijan, primarily EUWI EECCA and EPIRB projects.

It is a key strategic element of EUWI+ to help Azerbaijan develop its relevant institutions towards sustainable structures for WFD-compliant management of its water resources.

Azerbaijan experts have reported that general reforms in state institutions may directly affect the institutional structure and distribution of responsibilities in the water sector. In addition, they have reported implementation of a staff change and reduction programme in the major water institutions.

Project partners have agreed to develop sustainability in Azerbaijan’s water sector institutions to help them meet the country’s commitment of adopting the EU WFD. As a starting point, the Ministry will host a strategic group of two experts to manage RBMPlanning processes.
5.2 Specific activities

Activity 1.1.1. Needs assessment and identification of priorities in the area of support on legislative, economic and RBM issues

Summary of status

Azerbaijan recently resumed negotiations on a strategic partnership agreement with the EU; it was expected to be signed in 2017. It will upgrade political relations between the EU and Azerbaijan and potentially set targets for legal harmonisation, including in the water sector. A needs assessment and identification of priorities aimed to ensure that all relevant activities of EUWI+ support implementation of commitments by Azerbaijan to approximate to the main principles of IWRM and the EU WFD and achieve other relevant country targets.

Dedicated sessions at the 19-20 September 2016 joint high-level event of EPIRB and EUWI+ projects in Kyiv, Ukraine collected initial suggestions for country priorities. The delegation of Azerbaijan presented a brief overview of challenges in water resources management and outlined initial priority areas to be discussed in more detail during the inception phase of the EUWI+ project.

The EUWI+ national kick-off meeting in Baku on 28 November 2016 presented the scope of the project and gathered reaction from a broad range of stakeholders such as representatives of ministries, agencies, NGOs and donor projects. One-on-one meetings with key stakeholders gathered information to establish a baseline and identify country needs. In January 2017, the National Focal Point of Azerbaijan provided the EUWI+ project team with an updated list of potential priorities that further informed the needs assessment.

Summary of main objectives

Regional and national work plans for the project will be developed before the regional EUWI+ East Steering Committee meeting for discussion and endorsement by its members. They will outline key milestones and target per area of work i.e. National Policy Dialogue, legislative and regulatory issues, etc. National plans will be presented and adopted at the NPD meetings.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

To avoid overlap, the country Roadmap will not be separately produced from the country chapter of the Inception Report. All features of the Roadmap are provided in the country Gantt chart. They also appear in the attached matrix, which analyses country priorities (see Annex C).
Responsibilities and required inputs

The work plan and milestones (Gantt Chart) provide a related overview at the end of this country chapter.

Dependencies and synergies

The EUWI+ project is expected to consistently seek synergies with other international initiatives and projects, e.g. UNDP/GEF Kura-2 project.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

All needs identified during the inception phase could not be implemented fully due to limited resources. Therefore, the country was asked to make priorities so the project could implement the most urgent needs.

Activity 1.1.2. Organisation of NPD meetings and review of progress

Summary of status

EUWI National Policy Dialogues began in Azerbaijan in 2010. In 2010-16, five high-level NPD Steering Committee meetings were held to co-ordinate development of national water policy reforms.

NPD continues to be multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral. They are chaired by a Deputy Minister of Ecology of Ukraine. To ensure an inclusive approach to discussions related to policies and legal aspects of water management, participants from civil society organisations (CSOs), parliamentarians, private sector and academia are regularly invited to participate in the NPDs.

Summary of main objectives

In Azerbaijan, NPD will be the EUWI+ implementation mechanism. The EUWI + implementing partners will report to the NPD coordination committee meetings on their respective plans and activities in this country, including on RBMPs. The NPD meetings will support monitoring of the respective national work plan.
Methodology/Steps of implementation

Under the EUWI+ project, OECD and UNECE will organise at least one NPD meeting each year. Assistance has been provided to the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources for enlargement of the NPD Steering Committee. The agendas of NPD meetings will be prepared according to priorities identified in the country work plan. Summary records of each NPD meeting highlighting challenges, conclusions, next steps and responsibilities will also be prepared. A first meeting was held in Yerevan on 7 April 2017 to discuss national priorities and work plan under the EUWI+ project. The next NPD Steering Committee meeting was to be held in November/December 2017, establishing the co-chair arrangement between SCWS and WRMA.

Dependencies and synergies

EUWI+ will depend on the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan, which is to chair NPD meetings and ensure participation of other relevant national stakeholders from ministries and agencies.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

National stakeholders are believed interested in attending regular NPD meetings to harmonise water policy. Negotiations for a new co-operation agreement with the EU provide a concrete framework, and NPD meetings may play a stronger role.

Activity 1.1.3. Organisation of regional meetings and Project Steering Committee meetings

Summary of status

The EUWI+ project inception phase started in September 2016. To set the scene and to inform all key beneficiaries from six countries, a joint high-level event of EPIRB and EUWI+ projects was held in Kyiv, Ukraine on 19-20 September 2016. The meeting was attended by delegations from all six partner countries, many of which included deputy ministers.

Summary of main objectives

Annual regional EUWI+ meetings on specific topics will enable key stakeholders from six countries to exchange experiences and lessons learned, and address transboundary issues. The regional work plan will be adopted at its first meeting. Discussion at the regional meetings will identify actions and next steps for achievement of the agreed results, as highlighted in the work plan.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

The first regional EUWI+ Steering Committee was to take place on 15-16 May 2017 in Brussels with participation of at least two representatives from Azerbaijan. Approval of the Inception Report and national work plans were expected to be approved. Relevant meeting materials and information will
be produced in English and Russian for each meeting. The next regional EUWI+ Steering Committee meeting is expected in spring 2018 where national work plans can be adjusted if necessary.

**Dependencies and synergies**

Success of the regional meeting depends on availability of representatives of all six countries to participate and be prepared for discussions and decisions.

**Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks**

It is advisable that chairs of national NPD Steering Committees (normally deputy ministers) would attend regional EUWI+ Steering Committee meetings and finding a time slot suitable to all of them may be a challenge and bottleneck. Suitable replacements should be identified to attend when required.

**Activity 1.1.4. Ad hoc support to national processes related to the adoption of law/regulations and implementation of RBMPs, national plans on harmonisation of legal and normative acts with the requirements of the WFD, IWRM and MEAs**

**Summary of status**

The Water Code, adopted on 26 December 1997, provides the core principles of water policy. The Water Code of Azerbaijan does not specifically require introduction of the basin management principle. However, Article 16 of the Code indicates the basin approach among other core principles for use and protection of water objects. At the same time, it makes no further reference to the basin principle or to its practical implementation. To overcome the lack of a structural document to guide water policy, Azerbaijan has begun developing a national water strategy. One of the cornerstones of the draft strategy is introduction of the basin principle and initiation of RBMPs. Relevant key ministries are discussing the draft strategy. The Strategic Roadmap for Azerbaijan until 2025, which the government was to finalise in 2017, will set many overall policy objectives.

**Summary of main objectives**

The inception phase of EUWI+ identified many policy issues requiring assistance from the international community/donors. After consultations with different stakeholders, Azerbaijan proposed nine priority actions under Result 1, some of which EUWI+ will implement (see Annex C for the full list of proposals). Such actions can be grouped into the following areas:

- support to develop a long-term vision of water sector reforms
- support for legislative and regulatory reform
- further support for transboundary co-operation implementation of MEAs.

**Methodology/Steps of implementation**

- Develop the Water Sector Action Plan proposed by the National Water Strategy of Azerbaijan and support further development of the water policy.
- Support development of legal and regulatory mechanisms for application of IWRM including regulation for preparation of water allocation plans. This work will comprise different chapters of the National Water Action Programme, addressing issues not covered by the National Water Strategy. The OECD will also look into accompanying measures to strengthen efficient water allocation regulation, including reform of economic instruments.
- Finalise Kura agreement with Georgia and certain aspects of implementation in close co-ordination with the upcoming UNDP/GEF Kura-2 project.
- Support implementation of Protocol on Water and Health to the UNECE Water Convention.

Dependencies and synergies

The EUWI+ project is expected to seek synergies with other international initiatives and projects, e.g. UNDP/GEF project. Transboundary assessments will seek synergies with Results 2 activities on basin planning and monitoring.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

Good co-ordination is assumed between two main governmental institutions dealing with water resources – the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources and the Water Agency (under the Ministry of Emergencies). While the former oversees legislation, the Ministry of Emergencies is involved in EU-funded PPRD East 2 project, which helps to harmonize national activities and legislation with certain aspects of the EU Floods Directive.

Activity 1.2.1. Needs assessment and identification of priorities in the area of capacity development

Summary of status

Recent technical assistance projects have expanded the human and technical capacity of within the water sector. This presents an opportunity to bring this expertise together and strengthen it further.

Summary of main objectives

Based on the needs assessment, potential priorities for capacity development have been identified. It will help achieve long-term sustainability of EUWI+ results and more efficient decision making in the water sector.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

Face-to-face meetings with a broad range of national stakeholders and follow-up exchanges identified priorities in capacity development.

The EUWI+ national kick-off meeting in Baku on 28 November 2016 presented the scope of the project and gathered reaction from a broad range of stakeholders, such as representatives of
ministries, agencies, NGOs and donor projects. One-on-one meetings with key stakeholders followed to gather information for a baseline and to identify country needs.

With a general move towards regionalisation, more trainings at basin/regional level may be needed than at national/central government level. Several countries of the region, including Azerbaijan, identified these priority themes:

- Provision of training on development and application of water allocation plans for national levels. The OECD could deliver a regional training on approaches to develop national water allocation priorities, as well as application of rules when developing water allocation plans at the basin level.
- Training to strengthen monitoring of the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health to the UNECE Water Convention.
- Training to strengthen monitoring of the progress with water-related SDGs.
- A regional workshop on available methodologies for ecological/environmental flow in rivers.
- Capacity development events to strengthen the knowledge base for co-operative water management.

Dependencies and synergies

The EUWI+ project will seek synergies with other international initiatives and projects, providing training and capacity development assistance.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

Identification and availability of key staff to attend trainings: the number of people dealing with water management is limited, and these people are often overloaded with daily tasks.

Activity 1.2.2. Organisation of trainings

Summary of status

Established academic institutions and vocational training centres are providing courses/trainings on issues related to water resources management. In addition, Azerbaijan has a diverse donor community, and many international projects have been providing trainings for water managers over many years. For example, EU funding helps providing trainings on flood risk management through PPRD East 2 project and on national environmental monitoring through a twinning project, led by the Finnish Meteorological Institute. While training opportunities are often not lacking, the water sector has limited human resources. Therefore, any training needs to be well planned and targeted. With the general move towards regionalisation, trainings may be needed more at basin/regional level than at national/central government level.

Summary of main objectives

To ensure long-term sustainability of project results in local capacity development, some trainings will be implemented in partnership with relevant and approved local training institutions
(universities, research institutes, well-established water NGOs, etc.). A regional training plan based on the needs assessment is presented in the Part A of this report.

**Methodology/Steps of implementation**

Implementation will include strengthening preparedness and capacity to assess interactions and trade-offs between sectors and to identify solutions. This will require training and awareness on issues including allocation planning and the use of economic instruments. The knowledge base to support transboundary co-operation needs further strengthening with awareness of the benefits of sharing and efficient water allocation key features. In addition, need may arise to bring certain key national experts/officials to specific trainings or workshops organised by project partners outside Azerbaijan.

**Dependencies and synergies**

Several regional trainings could inform further development of a national water policy. It is assumed that Azerbaijan could benefit from regional training activities in conjunction with the other five EaP countries.

**Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks**

Some limitation could be anticipated in terms of details and the international experience available for a regional workshop.

**Activity 2.1.1. Assessment of monitoring and laboratory infrastructure, capacities and needs**

**Summary of status**

Discussions with experts, a first visit to laboratories during the inception phase, a distributed questionnaire and results from the previous EPIRB project provide a first indication of status. Main areas for further improvement towards WFD-compliant monitoring identified to date are the following:

- **Groundwater monitoring**: none focused on the mountainous areas. The ministry can make changes to the network without secondary legislation. Rehabilitation of wells and springs is needed.
  - The groundwater chemical samples are analysed in the Geological Expedition’s own central lab but also at the MoEcolog and (private) labs. Training on sampling is not provided.
- **Quantitative monitoring**: qualitative monitoring at the Kura River has priority to comply with the UNECE Convention on Transboundary Water Courses.
- **Biological monitoring**: There are three biological experts in the MENR laboratory. Ecological classification system for upper catchments was done with focus on macro invertebrates.
  - There are MENR labs in Baku, Ganja, Masalli and Quba. Some need improved building/infrastructure.
Further labs at MoEmergency (Water Agency), Caspian Institute and Azersu. They hold a national accreditation for several parameters, but not on the international level. Inadequate service and maintenance hinder proper functioning.

**Summary of main objectives**

- Identify gaps between the laboratory and monitoring in the Upper Kura pilot basin against the needs of the WFD.

**Methodology/Steps of implementation**

- Jointly evaluate available strategies, methodologies, procedures and guidance for monitoring and laboratory analysis, considering also the EPIRB achievements.
- Jointly assess GW and SW monitoring in the Upper Kura pilot basin (e.g. network design, sampling, parameters) in close relation to the outcome under Activity 2.3.1 concerning typology, water body delineation and pressures.
- Conduct visits and in-depth assessment of each selected laboratory considering staff capacities, infrastructure, testing and sampling methods, equipment, status of accreditation and training needs.

**Dependencies and synergies**

- A twinning project on environmental monitoring began in October 2016 with UBA as the partner. It focuses mainly on air quality. In agreement with the RTA, EUWI covers the small portion of water monitoring.
- GEF-funded project results of Kura need to be considered just as results from the previous GEF project were incorporated into the EPIRB project.
- EPIRB monitored ecology in the pilot and extended monitoring to the Kura II project in the Alazani. All this monitoring fed into development of the regional E SCS and should be continued.
- The agreement pending between Georgia and Azerbaijan and the Alazani NEXUS assessment. The conclusions and main objectives from this activity are further tackled under Training Activity 2.2.1 or under Activity 2.1.2 where equipment is purchased.

**Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks**

- Full commitment of beneficiary; availability and completeness of relevant information; alignment of involved institutions and focus on WFD implementation.

**Activity 2.1.2. Purchase of equipment, including hydrological and water quality monitoring stations and rehabilitation and upgrade of existing equipment and existing laboratories**

**Summary of status**

Water monitoring programmes need strengthening. GW and SW monitoring are operational, but not fully WFD-compliant. Also, analytical capacity is not fully WFD-compliant, particularly regarding hazardous substances. Some equipment needs modernisation.
Summary of main objectives

- Implement upgrade and development plan for monitoring and laboratories, including the following:
  o Jointly agreed list of monitoring and laboratory infrastructure, practical equipment and consumables needed and ranked according to priority in enabling the achievement of identified objectives under activities 2.1.3, 2.3.2 and 2.3.4, particularly to further achieving compliance with the WFD and its daughter directive requirements for tendering and purchase under activity 2.1.2.
  o Description of staff capacities, including job specifications needed for sustainable operation of monitoring and each selected laboratory, considering available and newly purchased equipment and new methods. Identification of additional staff needed will be addressed under Result 1.
  o Amendments needed in terms of procedures and training of staff, considering available and newly purchased equipment and new methods. The identified needs will be addressed in the form of trainings under Activity 2.2.1.
- Deliver, install and hand over appropriate equipment, infrastructure and consumables as defined and agreed in the upgrade and development plan as laid down in the corresponding tender dossier.
- Assure analytical service by fulfilling requirements of ISO/IEC 17025 in terms of availability of maintained equipment and availability of necessary infrastructure.
- Train staff and issue training certificates by the manufacturer (where applicable).
- Enhance analytical capabilities, reflecting a long-term perspective.
- Strengthen GW and SW monitoring programmes in the Upper Kura pilot basin and monitoring programmes in TCW towards WFD compliance.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

- Identify any relevant national procedures, such as customs clearance and procurement of equipment in full compliance with the legal requirements and rules applicable to this contract.
- Jointly elaborate tender dossier for the agreed list of infrastructure, equipment and consumables and submission to the official journal.
- Evaluate and document bids, identify best offer and assign contract.
- Rehabilitate, upgrade and enhance monitoring sites, equipment and laboratories to follow the respective upgrade and development plans.
- Install monitoring sites and equipment and train staff on equipment, acceptance procedure, compliance with specifications, approval and documentation.

Dependencies and synergies

WFD compliance of GW and SW monitoring and laboratories is subject to comprehensive check under Activity 2.1.1.
Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

- The project must ensure technical specifications are not tailored to a specific product; free and independent procurement must also be safeguarded.
- Sustainability of investments in equipment depends on long-term coverage of financial means for maintenance and consumables.

Activity 2.1.3. Technical support to laboratories for accreditation

Summary of status

Planning depends highly on the outcomes of Activity 2.1.1, which assesses laboratories equipment and capacities in depth, and on Activity 2.1.2, which purchases equipment. The MENR laboratory in Baku holds a national accreditation, but not an international certificate. Monitoring is carried out in collaboration with laboratories in Ganja, Masali and Quba. The labs analyse physical/chemical parameters, ions, nutrients, selected metals and pesticides. A limited number of priority substances are covered. The WFD requests analysis of pollutants in biota, but this has not been done.

The detailed planning of this activity depends on the outcome of Activity 2.1.1. Laboratories’ compliance with the technical and management requirements of the international standard EN ISO/IEC 17025 (general requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories) will be assessed in depth as basis for further support towards accreditation.

The level of support also depends on the available equipment and those which were purchased/upgraded/refurbished under Activity 2.1.2.

Summary of main objectives

- Determine additional priority substances required by the WFD and EQS Directive by assisting the MENR laboratory and local laboratories in expanding the accreditation scope.
- Conduct a pre-audit assessment to reveal the degree of compliance with the requirements of the ISO/IEC 17025 standard.
- Conduct study visits.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

- Clarify accreditation procedure, costs and timeline with the national accreditation body.
- Develop and validate method for additional priority substances.
- Review and update of QM-documentation.
- Tailor technical trainings and trainings of selected management aspects, e.g. audit seminar for QA staff executed under Activity 2.2.1.
- Participate in proficiency testing schemes in water analysis for selected groups of parameters as external quality control measure.
- Conduct a study visit of selected laboratories and administrative bodies of consortium partners to demonstrate all aspects of accreditation and their implications in routine day-to-day practice.
- Undertake a pre-audit assessment to reveal the degree of compliance with requirements of the ISO/IEC 17025 standard.

**Dependencies and synergies**

- The detailed planning of this activity depends on the outcome of Activities 2.1.1 and 2.1.2.

**Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks**

- Provision of technical support depends on equipment purchased under Activity 2.1.2, which brings up the issue of whether investments are sustainable.
- Laboratory staff need to be available and motivated to actively continue the required working steps between the missions in a partly independent manner.
- Training on methodologies for analysing certain parameters needs a corresponding legal basis for monitoring the addressed substances.

**Activity 2.2.1. Preparation of training plans and organisation of hands-on trainings and training of trainers with regard to monitoring and laboratory analyses and to support laboratories for accreditation**

**Summary of status**

Though relevant and responsible experts in the administrative bodies were involved in the implementation of the EPIRB project, contractors developed the RBMPs. The capacity of the national administration to roll out the accomplished WFD or extending its implementation to further river basins is limited. To enable such independency and to achieve a certain degree of sustainability, hands-on training is needed to strengthen capacities of the administrative bodies.

**Summary of main objectives**

- Create a critical mass of qualified staff that can independently develop and maintain the water monitoring and laboratory analysis in line with the WFD requirements.
- Ensure qualified staff can further train national experts and increase the mass and capacity of qualified staff.
- Base training plans on upgrade and development plans defined under Activity 2.1.2.
- Ensure training documents are available and fit to use after the project ends.

**Methodology/Steps of implementation**

Administrative bodies need capacity building to ensure sustainability. Based on the status and achievements in the EPIRB pilot of the Central Kura basin, the trainings will review and potentially update the RBMPs. They will be expanded to the new pilot of the whole Upper Kura basin (Kura, Alazani, Iori). Training considers all WFD relevant aspects of GW, SW, quantitative, chemical, hydromorphological and biological monitoring.
- Jointly develop training plans, competence profiles and training targets which are derived from the needs identified under Activities 2.1.1, 2.1.3 and 2.3.1 and the upgrade and development plans defined under Activity 2.1.2. The plans compile and co-ordinate the single training aspects throughout the project and will be adopted according to the progress of implementation and the needs identified throughout the projects phase.
- Revise and prepare corresponding training material.
- Provide intensive hands-on training on:
  - monitoring design (network, parameters, frequency, etc.) and management
  - sampling of quantitative, chemical and biological indicators and assessment of hydromorphology in close connection with Activities 2.3.4 and 2.3.5
  - use, calibration, maintenance of equipment and infrastructure for sampling, monitoring and laboratory analyses
  - evaluation of monitoring results and link to RBMPs
  - exchange of experience and trainings for selected topics of the EN ISO/IEC 17025 standard for laboratory accreditation
  - training of trainers for selected aspects
  - preparation of strategies, road maps, guidance and templates.

Dependencies and synergies

- Junior experts are recruited, and competencies and skills built during the project as needed.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

- Administrative staff are available and motivated to attend the trainings and implement the required working steps between training sessions in a partly independent manner.
- Capacities, and national funds and logistics and sufficient.
- Long-term assignment of respective staff is a precondition to sustainability of capacities.

Activity 2.3.1. Assessment of the needs and identification of priorities in implementation of the RBMPs

Summary of status

During the EPIRB project, Azerbaijan developed an RBMP for the pilot basin that consists of the right bank tributaries of the Central Kura Basin. It was submitted for government adoption after various consultations. The activity complements country priorities identified during the project kick-off meetings and inception missions.

Summary of main objectives

The project will support the country in assessing methodology and review the RBMP developed under the EPIRB project for the pilot Central Kura basins/watersheds, for consistency with the WFD using standard EU procedures.
**Methodology/Steps of implementation**

Approaches will be in line with the WFD and water legislation of Azerbaijan. The MS expert team will assess the EPIRB Central Kura pilot RBMP (Ganjachay, Shamkircahy, Tovuzchay, Agstafachay river basins) regarding requirements of the WFD, governance and stakeholders’ involvement, human resources and training needs.

To fulfil this objective, the assessment identifies training needs to provide the most relevant methodological support. This includes capacity building on WFD implementation and RBMP preparation, and on-the-job training of responsible authorities, especially the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan.

**Dependencies and synergies**

Linked with Activity 2.3.2.

**Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks**

Dedicated teams to tasks related to RBMP development and monitoring will have to be identified at an early stage of the project.
Activity 2.3.2. Technical support in the elaboration and implementation of the pilot RBMPs

Figure 5.1. The planning cycle of the EU WFD and its consecutive implementation steps

Summary of status

During the kick-off mission, participants identified many concrete priorities. Some of these priorities could be selected as pilot implementation measures.

Different sectors are developing measures related to water management. This activity could demonstrate feasibility of new exemplary measures derived from sectoral water-related directives or be key to foster effective measures. This activity has the following priorities:

- Country priority n°10: Support in water resources management based on IWRM principles to develop and implement RBMP and in the sphere of development of economic and financial mechanism for their implementation.
- Country priority n°11: Support signing and implementation of bilateral agreement between Georgia and Azerbaijan on water resources, including creation and functioning of joint bodies and development and implementation of transboundary RBMPs based on principles of Water Convention and EU WFD. In addition, develop transboundary RBMP and water allocation plan for Kura river basin upstream of Mingachevir reservoir through support of EUWI+ project.
- Country priority n°21: Support on development of methodology on assessment of natural risks, such as flooding, droughts and landslides.
- Country priority n°22: Support to apply precipitation-water model to one of pilot river basins to assess water resources and future changes.
- Country priority n°26: Support to study construction of water reservoirs on small rivers for IWRM and environmental flow purposes.

**Summary of main objectives**

- Identify the necessary conditions for implementation of key measures of the Central Kura RBMP and to draw some recommendations applicable to country priorities through guidelines.
- Develop and upgrade the pilot RBMP to a full-scale RBMP for the Kura upstream Mingachevir dam River Basin Sub-District.
- Elaborate national guidelines associated with the RBMP process
- Develop national capacities (particularly for competent authorities) for the country to implement the RBMP process in an autonomous way.

**Figure 5.2. Map of the Upper Kura**
Methodology/Steps of implementation

Implementation of measures from EPIRB pilot RBMP

The selection of priority pilot measures from the PoM for implementation should align with national priorities. The process should be participative in the spirit of the WFD and in co-ordination with communication activities (Result 3). For example, the selected measures from the “Programme of Measures to the Central Kura pilot area 9 - priority supplementary measures” – rather “soft” measures – could be the following:

1. Administrative measure: creation of BMO and RBC
8. Demand management measure (communication strategy)
11. Restoration of the continuity of the water flow

At national level, the EU MS experts’ team could work out a governance vision with the delineation of the country into RBDs, articulation between RBMP with Flood Risk Management Plan, allocation strategy, and drought risk management, environmental flows (Country priorities n° 10, 21 and 26).

The link with sectoral plans will be important to demonstrate the necessary co-ordination and integration for water resources management.

The MS experts' team will then support the competent authorities and project owners to implement the selected measures, through its experience in project management, preparation of studies and terms of references, implementation plans, mobilisation of funds, etc.

The project will make every effort to leverage funding for Central Kura RBMP, engaging with other water sector bilateral and bilateral projects.

Development of Upper Kura RBMP

The Austrian Environment Agency will lead the technical elements of RBMP elaboration that cover SW and GW body delineation, SWB typology characterisation, pressures and impact assessment, monitoring network design, monitoring and risk and status assessment (chemistry, biology and quantity).

OIEau will lead the strategic elements of RBMP elaboration that cover identification of the significant water management issues, establishment of environmental objectives, economic analysis, programme of measures (PoM), public consultation, etc.

The project will support the competent authorities in the form of intensive hands-on training and workshops on water body delineation and characterisation, pressures and impact assessment, establishment of environmental objectives, status and risk assessment covering the evaluation of monitoring results, development of programme of measures, etc. Training for trainers will be also implemented.
Several chapters of the RBMP might be developed under tendered contract with national partners and consultants approved by the beneficiary. The winning contractor will work closely with the planning unit of the beneficiary organisation in accordance with the detailed terms of reference. The MS experts’ team will provide technical and strategic support to both the contractor and the beneficiary in developing a compliant plan.

RBMP development will roughly proceed according to the following steps:

- Setting-up governance for the preparation of RBMP, organisation of regular co-ordination and consultation meetings with the main stakeholders and the wider public to facilitate further implementation of RBMP.
- Identification of significant water management issues for the RBMP planning cycle.
- River basin characterisation (WFD article 5) including: surface water and groundwater bodies delineation (e.g. shift of SWB EPIRB delineation to WFD system B) and typology, pressures assessment (domestic, industrial and agricultural) and impact analysis, protected areas delineation (drinking water protected areas, sensitive areas regarding urban waste water, vulnerable zones towards nitrates from agriculture sources, specific zones for habitats, etc.), baseline and prospective scenarios to integrate the trend of the main pressures, economic analysis (water use, cost recovery – WFD article 9), risk analysis.
- Design of monitoring program (surveillance and operational) and network (WFD article 8), establishment of a compliance regime for assessing water bodies status, assessment of water status (surface water and groundwater; biological, chemical and quantitative data).
- Setting up environmental objectives (WFD article 4) for water bodies and protected areas.
- Programme of measures to ensure achievement of environmental objectives (WFD, article 11).
- Finalisation of the RBMD (WFD article 13).
- Public consultation Procedures in line with the WFD (see Result 3).

Elaboration of national guidelines

The EU MS experts' team will develop national guidance documents in line with the WFD and associated directives. If necessary and in addition to EPIRB guidelines produced, the guidance documents will include specific examples gained from pilot basin experiences and be adapted to country specificities. The guidelines will contain a portfolio of priority action cards to guide the different steps of planning process and implementation.

Dependencies and synergies

Developing this activity, the EU MS expert team will carefully ensure co-ordination and promote synergies with other international projects.

- Strongly linked with Activities 2.3.1. (RBMP review) and Activities 2.3.4. (JFSs).
- From EPIRB Central Kura RBMP, some measures in the field of regulatory and governance are linked with Result 1 and Activities 2.2 and 2.3.6.
Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

Input from local consultants will be defined after mobilisation of competencies and knowledge of Azerbaijan institutions. This input will be optimised based on budget constraint.

This activity will be a concrete exercise to organise communication between different stakeholders and other projects developed in Azerbaijan.

National staff must be mobilised early to steer this process with the support of EU MS experts. The sustainability of the team is key to RBMP development in the country.

Sustainable progress and development of the plans will depend on ability of local authorities to build capacity and own results.

Some tasks could take longer than the available project time; the project will define them carefully to ensure their fulfilment.

Activity 2.3.3. Technical support to the RBM institutions to tackle co-ordination in transboundary river basins

Summary of status

During the kick-off mission, transboundary assessment was considered important as most rivers come from neighbouring countries. This activity will be aligned with the following identified country priority:

- Country priority n°11: Support signing and implementation of bilateral agreement between Georgia and Azerbaijan on water resources. This includes creation and functioning of joint bodies and development and implementation of transboundary RBMPs based on principles of the Water Convention and EU WFD. It would be important to develop transboundary RBMP and water allocation plan for Kura river basin upstream of Mingechavir reservoir by support of EUWI+ project.

The country priorities from Georgia concern the development of a full-scale WFD-compliant RBMP for the Alazani-iori and Khrami-Debed river basins, all of them Kura tributaries.

The development of the Kura agreement with Georgia is creating opportunities for transboundary co-operation to harmonise RBMP process in the Kura basin.
**Summary of main objectives**

The competent authorities in charge of RBMPs should implement a co-ordinated transboundary planning process to achieve the following:

- Consider the proper scale for river basin management (i.e. the river basin), even if transboundary basins may be more complex to manage than river basins exclusively within the national borders
- Have a coherent approach and develop synergies with riparian countries for the planning process, particularly for sharing objectives and for defining the programme of measures
- Take advantage and valorise the respective countries' experiences regarding RBMP and implementation of the WFD to capitalise on this experience more effectively
- Promote broader co-ordination between the countries.

**Methodology/Steps of implementation**

To help the competent authority and line agencies co-ordinate transboundary river basin management, the MS expert team will do the following:

- Assess RBMP development on both sides of the border.
- Strengthen the cross-boundary working group and conduct transboundary meetings to harmonise the countries' visions about the main issues and planning.
- Support thematic working groups to consider the transboundary aspects for the different steps of planning with a focus on water bodies delineation and monitoring, environmental objectives.

The transboundary process needs the setting-up of governance to organise regular co-ordination and consultation meetings for the main steps of RBMP development.

The development of several chapters will rely upon local expertise as needed to support the basin organisations. International expertise and trainings will complement local expertise.

In the spirit of the agreement, the project will support harmonisation of the RBMP with Georgia and prepare ground for development of a transboundary assessment of the Kura River towards the Georgian-Azerbaijani border.

**Dependencies and synergies**

Developing this activity, the MS expert team will carefully ensure co-ordination and promote synergies with RBMP development in the two countries. For example, the Ecological Status Classification System developed under the EPIRB project will be applied to establish a common baseline. Activity strongly linked with Activity 2.3.2.
Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

The willingness of each country for cross-boundary works and assignment of sufficient human resources will be the main bottlenecks. Different rhythms and organisation between the countries could limit global synergy.

The RBMP would be developed simultaneously on both sides of the border with close consultation between the two development teams.

Activity 2.3.4. Carry out biological, ecological, chemicals surveys as needed to develop and implement the RBMPs, including intercalibration exercise and organisation of joint field surveys in transboundary rivers

Summary of status

Transboundary SW and GW monitoring (together with GE) was already performed under EPIRB. It covered chemical monitoring in SW and GW and hydromorphology and biology in SW. The continuation of (transboundary) surveys under EUWI+ is highly appreciated.

Summary of main objectives

- Contribute to the comparability of data between the shared Kura (Alazani, Iori) river basins.
- Ensure availability of sufficient monitoring data (gap filling) to allow for development of the new RBMP of the whole Upper Kura basin in terms of characterisation and classification (risk and status assessment) of SWBs and GWBs, the development of ecological classification schemes and the inter-calibration of national SW status assessment regimes under Activity 2.3.2.
- Link biological monitoring experts from neighbouring countries.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

- Develop monitoring schemes of field surveys and joint transboundary field surveys.
- Execute field surveys and joint transboundary surveys in SW, GW and TCW covering chemical (also priority substances), hydromorphological and relevant biological indicators in close adjustment with Activity 2.2.1.
- Provide intensive hands-on training on:
  - sampling and monitoring of quantitative, chemical and biological indicators and in assessment of hydromorphological indicators
  - use, calibration, maintenance of equipment and infrastructure for sampling, on-site monitoring and logistics, and sample treatment
  - evaluation of monitoring results
  - joint development of monitoring schemes, survey manuals, organisation of the surveys, mission reports and evaluation.
Dependencies and synergies

- Synergies with Activity 2.2.1 (hands-on training) and Activity 2.1.3 (towards accreditation).

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

- Junior experts are recruited, and competencies and skills built during the project as needed.
- Necessary additional equipment purchased under Activity 2.1.2 is in place.
- Capacities, and national funds and logistics are sufficient.

Activity 2.3.5. Investigatory monitoring of water bodies at risk of high pollution or related issues

Summary of main objectives

- Discover reasons for unknown exceedances, the unknown reasons for risk or the causes of failure of good status or the magnitude and impacts of accidental pollution.
- Fill gaps of monitoring results for proper review/establishment of the programme of measures of the RBMPs.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

- Jointly identify sites and parameters subject to investigatory monitoring, depending on the results of the pressure and risk assessments under Activity 2.3.2.
- Develop monitoring schemes, survey manuals, organisation of the surveys, mission reports and evaluation of the survey and the data gathered.

Dependencies and synergies

- Results of the pressure and risk assessments under Activity 2.3.2.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

- The scope very much depends on the results of the pressure and risk assessments within the RBMP elaboration under Activity 2.3.2, the selected pollution cases, the substances concerned, and the sampling and laboratory equipment available.
- Necessary additional equipment purchased under Activity 2.1.2 is in place.
- Capacities, and national funds and logistics are sufficient.
**Activity 2.3.6. Development and strengthening of national databases on water-related issues and ensure compliance of data with SEIS principles for collection and sharing of data**

**Summary of status**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Situation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legislation on data management</td>
<td>Water cadastre mentioned in water code</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WIS/water cadastre</td>
<td>Not existing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data sources</td>
<td>Various data sources mainly xls and .doc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities/ synergies</td>
<td>Ministry ready to host server</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EU project interested to share server</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SEIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>(Two IT Technical staff available at MENR)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Summary of main objectives**

**Needs**

About the needs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initial official request</th>
<th>Country Priority n°16 “Support to create ground and surface water databases and to provide exchange of information”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Country Priority n°24 “… development of hydrological data basis, create early warning systems on extreme hydrological events and conducting of information exchange”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Complementary request of partners | • Department of water quality  
|                                    | • Access to data  
|                                    | • Visualise and access to data  
|                                    | • MENR  
|                                    | • Server for data integration  
|                                    | • Better access to data  
|                                    | • Visualisation  
|                                    | • SEIS |

**Proposal of action**

Developing automatised processing from water data producers to feed the water information system, with valorisation of data online to facilitate the following:

- production of information for RBMP following needs
- access to data for SEIS indicators production
- better access to data and information to partners and to the public (following rights given by the initial data producers).

**Methodology/Steps of implementation**

The scheme here below summarises the global approach.

**Figure 5.3. Potential scenario for reinforcing water data management**

The implementation of this approach will include activities related to:

**Organisational aspects**

- support to adaptation of Water Code on water cadastre related to national information system for RBMP
- workshop on data management (exchange on situation, data flow analysis, presentation metadata production process, need analysis)
- support to development of agreements on data exchanges with partners
- support to organisation of metadata production with/by the data producers (cf Inspire Directive)
- agreement on server to be hosted at MENR with administration access via IOWater.
Technical aspects

- support to catalogue of metadata preparation/implementation
- support to water quality data integration
- support to a pilot action of data integration and online web mapping valorisation on surface water quality
- support Information production for RBMP.

Dependencies and synergies

- Activity 2.3.7: Establish a system for regular monitoring of the implementation of the RBMPs programme of measures and support the use of evidence-based data for policy making and review of RBMPs’ programme of measures
- Activity 3.1.2: Organisation of exchanges in pilot projects to support public and stakeholder participation in the preparation, implementation, review and update of RBMPs developed under Result 2.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottleneck

The good development of these activities requires the following:

- political will to organise water data sharing between institutions
- clear sharing of responsibilities and tasks between the various organisations involved in water data production/management and valorisation
- availability of online server with possibilities to install the necessary software
- availability of staff for:
  - technical management of the information system
  - organisation of data exchange between institutions.

Activity 2.3.7: Establish a system for regular monitoring of the implementation of the RBMPs and support the use of evidence-based data for policy making

Summary of status

This activity will be implemented in link with the following identified country priorities:

- Country priority n°10: Support in water resources management based on IWRM principles to develop and implement RBMP and for development of economic and financial mechanism for their implementation.

Summary of main objectives

This activity is targeted at raising awareness and providing tools to decision makers about the need for reliable indicators to assess RBMP implementation and reorient regional water policies if needed.
This approach is necessary to select the most relevant indicators related to each regional water policy and to produce the necessary corresponding data on a continuous basis.

It is proposed to build a first dashboard to monitor implementation of measures together with the different sectors concerned. This dashboard could describe progress in implementation of the RBMP in the spirit of WFD Article 15.

The result of this experience will be used for the next iterative improvement of the programmes of measures of future RBMPs.

It will be focused on EPIRB pilot Central Kura Basin. The gained experience will be a reference for up-scaling a dash board at country scale, first on Upper Kura (Activity 2.3.2).

Methodology/Steps of implementation

This activity will develop indicators to monitor implementation of the programme of measures of the RBMPs and tools to support visualisation of the monitoring results.

The implementation steps would be:

- Analyse in detail programme of measures and categorisation/typology of measures, including the definition of responsibilities.
- Identify/develop appropriate indicators to monitor implementation of measures and validation.
- Analyse availability of indicators; gather national policy papers from the different sectors and identify measures being implemented in EPIRB pilot river basin; study the possibility to use the work done on the SDGs; develop practices to use socio-economic data to extrapolate quantified information about pressures; water resources status; etc.
- Propose procedure and responsibilities for regularly evaluating the implementation progress.
- Prepare the set of data necessary for an interim report about implementation of the PoM.

Actions will consist of trainings and desk support for settling the process of gathering indicators and linking indicators to decision making.

Dependencies and synergies

This activity is linked with the National Water Plan project and closely connected to Activity 2.3.6 to optimise work on the dashboard. It also depends on development and strengthening of national databases on water-related issues to ensure compliance of data with SEIS principles for collection and sharing of data and to Activity 2.3.2.

In this logic, different administrative bodies in charge of implementing the activity should use a regularly updated database as much as possible to select the right indicators.
Experience from other EaP countries will be shared, especially from transboundary basins.

**Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks**

Given the four-year length of the project and the time needed to collect and validate data, some results will be difficult to highlight. The methodology will be familiar. Consistency with sectoral plans will be sought. Interagency exchange of information is necessary for good monitoring of RBMP implementation.

**Activity 3.1.1. Development, regular update and implementation of a communication strategy for the project**

**Summary of status**

Communication and public awareness is an integral part of most previous technical assistance or institutional support projects. The present project will continue to work in this direction based on the results, and considering the achievements and recommendations, of previous projects and current trends. The work in this direction by public authorities together with NGOs and relevant partners needs to be integrated as common practice to support water sector reforms.

**Summary of main objectives**

Effective communication with targeted stakeholders and the public is essential for in-depth involvement in the implementation and decision process; for raising awareness of the need for protecting the water; and for the need of integrated water management. The main objectives of this result are:

- Support the policy process, influence specific policies or policy makers around key aspects of the IWRM.
  - Encourage participation among key stakeholders.
- Build awareness of a project among a wide but defined group of audiences and user groups.

**Methodology/Steps of implementation**

Establishing the communication strategy will continue to strengthen the ability of Azerbaijan in this field. It will be closely linked with supporting new legislation and national strategies, setting up the National Policy Dialogue (Result 1) and RBMP development and implementation (Result 2). It will be done in relation to the main players in this domain and partnering with the Aarhus Centre (now Environmental Information and Education Centre) where applicable. The Public Council established at the MENR may become a platform to discuss project results (Country priority 3: Systematic analysis of the progress and outcomes of the project, communication, and information about the project for the stakeholders and the public).
Core activities underpinning the execution of public participation and communication strategies will include:

- assessing the main communication actions for participative RBM planning
- developing and annually updating a communication and stakeholders’ engagement strategy to be co-ordinated at national and basin scales
- supporting implementation of the communication strategy directly in connection with the project such as:
  - production of press release, project brochure and a flyer, as well as the elements concerning the project and other relevant websites
  - production of promotional materials
  - promotion of activities related to effective communication with targeted stakeholders and the public, including communication campaigns, school information sessions, conferences, roundtables and other events.

Main communication tools:

- Develop and maintain project website with a country page.
- Prepare and publish information materials: leaflets on the national components (in English and Azeri), project newsletter, brochures on pilot demonstrations, press releases, media articles.
- Promote activities related to effective communication with targeted stakeholders and to a wider public: public awareness campaign on IRWM, school information sessions, conferences, seminars and workshops, roundtables and other events, press briefings or meetings with journalists.

Dependencies and synergies

This is a cross-cutting issue with many synergies at basin, national and transboundary levels with activities under Results 1 and 2.

Developing this activity, the MS expert team will carefully ensure co-ordination and promote synergies with the UNDP GEF Kura II Project and other ongoing projects and initiatives.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

These activities require political will to communicate and availability of staff for local contacts.

Activity 3.1.2. Organisation of exchanges in pilot projects to support public and stakeholder participation in the preparation, implementation, review and update of RBMPs developed under Result 2

Summary of status

Key stakeholders in the basin are invited for discussions during development of EPIRB Central Kura RBMP. However, the Azerbaijan legislation does not require establishment of a basin council.
There is need to increase capacity of national organisations in country-wide application of IWRM and RBMP and also in each basin district through creation of basin institutions (such as BMOs, PBC), development/implementation of basin-level RBMPs through provision of trainings and organising of study tours to EU countries for specialists and decision makers, etc. (Country priority nº 2.9).

**Summary of main objectives**

- Support the MENR to co-ordinate national working groups and public consultation for developing among key interested parties a common understanding of RBMP plans and maintaining communication on actions in each river district.
- Support the BMOs of Kura upstream of Mingachevir reservoir River Basin to mobilise stakeholders to discuss each key stage of RBMP development.
- Enable the public to access monitoring information as a result of pilot development in Kura basin (activity on information system enhancement).

**Methodology/Steps of implementation**

Support implementation of the soft measures from the programme of measures of the EPIRB Central Kura RBMP. Implementation of measures requires the involvement of local stakeholders and a clear identification of their interest in the actions. The action will require focusing on pilot area.

Although the establishment of basin council/committee is not legally required, the development of the RBMP requires an important involvement of interested parties at basin scale. Main activities will include:

- Assess mechanism to harmonise practices and share information and communication with practitioners involved in WFD implementation at basin scale.
- Identify and mobilise relevant stakeholders in the pilot basins to establish stakeholder dialogue at basin level:
  - Identify all socio-economic actors, general public and organisations that may engage in consultation.
- Develop mechanisms for stakeholders’ participation in development and implementation of the RBMPs:
  - Prepare consultation strategy in the pilot basins in line with the legal and administrative setup developed in Result 1.
  - Develop functioning rules for operational basin council (composition, consultation and decision making, role of the secretariat, etc.).
  - Hold training session and coaching on facilitation techniques for consultation workshops with selected stakeholders.
- Organise and facilitate meetings with stakeholders to build consensus on shared objectives of RBMPs and PoM:
  - Develop work plan and pre-identify main water issues.
  - Consult on programme of measures to tackle objectives and draft RBMP.
- Engage stakeholder and users on thematic issues in priority areas (to be determined):
- Develop a communication strategy for each basin.
- Provide public information and raise awareness on results of pilot development in Central Kura basin.
- Summarise key points from the RBMPs in plain language to reach the general public, in line with Activity 3.1.1.

Dependencies and synergies

This is a cross-cutting issue with many synergies at basin and national levels with Activities 2.3.1, 2.3.2 and 2.3.6, but also with Result 1.

Activity 3.1.3. Establishment of a mechanism to harmonise practices and share information and communication with practitioners involved in WFD implementation and/or IWRM in the six EaP countries

Summary of main objectives

- Establish a mechanism to harmonise practices and share information and communication with practitioners involved in IWRM implementation at national level.
- Facilitate technical thematic meetings and establish working groups for key issues at national level.

Country priorities n° 1.7 and 4.8 will be also addressed with respect to the following issues:

- Support increasing inter-sectoral co-operation to make joint decisions on different aspects of water resources management.
- Support creation of State Water Commission (development of relevant documents).

Methodology/Steps of implementation

- Develop and maintain project website with data and information exchange platform.
- Assess mechanism to harmonise practices and share information and communication with practitioners involved in IWRM implementation at national scale.
- Support MENP to develop and animate a working group structure for WFD implementation based on the Common Implementation Strategy used in EU Member States since 2000. The thematic working groups will bring together different services to develop common understanding on RBMPlan development tasks, related methodologies and organisation schemes per topic (legislation development, planning, data management, monitoring, communication). It will constitute a common platform for developing synergies between different international projects based on practical implementation of international best practices to Azerbaijani context per topic.
- Ensure this mechanism enables the project to put into practice orientations identified at NPD meetings (Figure 5.4).
Main activities will include:

- developing a web-based information exchange platform providing the project results in relation to activities on data management and communication strategy
- developing schemes to help cabinet ministers make IWRM decisions more efficiently based on the different mechanisms: NPD, working group structure for WFD implementation, executive national water commission to be potentially established, etc.
- supporting an action plan for stakeholders’ involvement and communication with an ad hoc dedicated working group, part of the structure proposed above
- preparing summary reports on events to consolidate and harmonise practices in different basins and list of participants.

Dependencies and synergies

This is a cross-cutting issue with many synergies at national and international levels with activities 2.3.1, 2.3.2 and 2.3.6, but also with Result 1.
**Activity 3.1.4. Organisation of international events including study visits to harmonise practices and share information and communication on WFD implementation, IWRM and MEAs**

**Summary of status**

The development of the Kura agreement with Georgia is creating opportunity for transboundary co-operation to harmonise the RBMP in the Kura basin.

**Summary of main objectives**

- Promote and support harmonised practices and exchange of experience on WFD with practitioners involved in WFD implementation and/or IWRM in the six EaP countries.
- Facilitate exchange of experience with neighbouring countries (Georgia).

**Country priorities n° 4.18 and 4.19 will also be addressed with respect to the following issues:**

- Support for learning of experience of other countries (e.g. Belarus or EU Member States) in the field of ecological status assessment for water bodies
- Co-operation with ongoing EU Twinning, UNDP GEF Kura-II and other projects.

**Methodology/Steps of implementation**

- Assess experience in bilateral working groups to harmonise practices and international agreements in co-operation with Result 1.
- Organise international events (study visits, workshops, trainings) to harmonise practices and share information and communication on WFD implementation, IWRM and MEAs
- Network and develop information exchange with relevant institutions and stakeholders:
  - Ensuring participation of the basin organisations in international networks such as International Network of Basin Organisations, etc.
  - Organising and conducting twinning exchanges.

**Dependencies and synergies**

This activity has a strong link with Result 1 and 2 (especially 2.3.3), as well as Activities 3.1.1 and 3.1.3 (web-based information exchange platform).

Close collaboration is requested with other projects and initiatives, particularly with the EU Twinning and the UNDP GEF Kura II project.
5.3. Organisation and steering structure

Project registration

The registration of EUWI+ Result 2 & 3, the EU Member State consortium grant contract, in Azerbaijan has begun, but is not yet complete.

Project partners understand that the officially certified completed registration process is a prerequisite for supply and service tenders in Azerbaijan as they will have to pay VAT or import tariffs.

Regional-level arrangements

Regionally, a Project Steering Committee, consisting of six delegations of each EaP country, representatives of the international project partners and representatives of the European Union, is to be established. Its meeting structure and functions are well defined in the DoA and are not repeated here.

The assigned members of the Regional Steering Committee for Azerbaijan are the assigned National Focal Point (NFP) of the project and one additional member appointed by Azerbaijan.

National-level arrangements

Activity 1.1.2 in national work plan describes the role of the national NPD Steering Committee as main oversight mechanism.

A National Executive Strategic Board has not formally been established. Its meeting structure and functions are well defined in the DoA and are not repeated here.

The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources in Azerbaijan appointed Mr. Issa Aliyev, Head of the Public Relations Division, as NFP of Azerbaijan responsible for EUWI+.

Expert-level structures

The Azerbaijan and international partners have agreed to nominate lead thematic experts to streamline co-ordination and communication of the main thematic areas of expertise for implementation of the Action (Table 5.5).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Result</th>
<th>International Expert</th>
<th>Azerbaijan thematic lead expert</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Result 1</td>
<td>OECD and UNECE project managers and thematic Experts</td>
<td>Shamil Huseynov, Head of Environment sector at Parliament Teymur Shakaraliyev, Head of legal division, MENR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R 2  Surface water monitoring</td>
<td>Kristina Schaufler (AT)</td>
<td>Matanat Avazova, Deputy Head of National Environmental Monitoring Department, MENR Asif Verdiyev, Chief Hydrologist, National Hydrometeorology Department, MENR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R 2  Groundwater monitoring</td>
<td>Christoph Leitner (AT)</td>
<td>Rasim Mammadov, Head of Groundwater monitoring unit, National Geological Exploration service, MENR Bakhtiyar Garalov, Head of the Complex Hydrogeology and Geology Expedition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R 2  Laboratories</td>
<td>Philipp Hohenblum (AT)</td>
<td>Ramina Abdullayeva, Head of Water Laboratory, MENR Vasif Alieyev, head of National Monitoring Centre Matanat Avazova, Deputy Head of National Environmental Monitoring Department, MENR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R 2  RBMP</td>
<td>Yannick Pochon (FR)</td>
<td>Mutallim Abdulhasanov, Head of Division, Environmental Policy Department, MENR With support for compiling the RBMP document of: Basin description: Fargana Dadashova and Tahrmina Baghirova, Scientific Research Hydrometeorology Institute, MENR RBMP: Vafa Mamadova, National Hydrometeorology Department, MENR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R 2  Data management</td>
<td>Paul Haener (FR)</td>
<td>Issa Aliyev, Head of Propaganda Department MENR</td>
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<tr>
<td>R 3  Communication</td>
<td>Yunona Videnina (FR)</td>
<td>Maltam Bandaliyeva, Specialist, MENR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Country Representatives

The aim and functions of Country Representatives are well defined in the DoA and not repeated here.

Mr Rafig Verdiyev is the Country Representative of UNECE and OECD for Azerbaijan, who helps implement Result 1. He is also the Country Representative of the EU Member State Consortium in Azerbaijan who helps implement Results 2 and 3.
### 5.4. Work plan and milestones for Azerbaijan (Gantt Chart)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Result / Activity</th>
<th>Responsible</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Inception report</strong></td>
<td>Project Team</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Result 1 - Legislation Policy and Institutional strengthening</strong></td>
<td>UNECE/OECD</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.1 Needs assessment and identification of priorities in the area of support on legislative, economic, and RBM issues</td>
<td>UNECE/OECD</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.2 Organization of NPD meetings and review of progress</td>
<td>UNECE/OECD</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.3 Organization of Regional Meetings and Project Steering Committee Meetings</td>
<td>OECD</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.4 Ad hoc support to national processes related to the adoption of law/regulations and implementation of RBMPs, national plans on harmonisation of legal and normative acts with the requirements of the WFD, IWRM and MEAs</td>
<td>OECD</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.5 Recast of the National Water Strategy (NWS)</td>
<td>OECD</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.6 Development of A National Water action Programme</td>
<td>OECD</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.7 Secondary legislation development</td>
<td>OECD</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.8 Funding of targets under the Protocol on Water and Health</td>
<td>UNECE</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.9 Support to national reporting exercise under the Protocol on Water and Health</td>
<td>UNECE</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.10 Finalization of bilateral agreement with Georgia on the Kura River</td>
<td>UNECE</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.11 Implementation of certain aspects of the Kura agreement with Georgia</td>
<td>UNECE</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Result 2 - River Basins Management Plans designed and implemented in line with the WFD principles</strong></td>
<td>UBA/IOW</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.1 Assessment of monitoring and laboratory infrastructure, capacities and needs</td>
<td>UBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.2 Purchase of equipment, including hydrological and water quality monitoring stations and rehabilitation and upgrade of existing equipment and existing laboratories</td>
<td>UBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.3 Technical support to laboratories for accreditation</td>
<td>UBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.4 Preparation of training plans and organization of hands-on trainings and training of trainers with regard to monitoring and laboratory analyses and to support laboratories for accreditation</td>
<td>UBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.5 Assessment of the needs and identification of priorities in implementation of the RBMPs</td>
<td>UBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.6 Technical Support in the elaboration and implementation of the pilot RBMPs</td>
<td>UBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.7 Technical Support to the RBM institutions to tackle coordination in transboundary river basins</td>
<td>IOW</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.8 Carrying out biological, ecological, chemical, and chemical surveys as needed to develop and implement the RBMPs, including intercalibration and transboundary activities</td>
<td>IOW</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.9 Investigatory monitoring of water bodies at risk of high pollution or related issues</td>
<td>LBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.10 Development and strengthening of national databases on water related issues &amp; ensure compliance of data with SEIS principles for collection and sharing of data</td>
<td>IOW</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.11 Establish a system for regular monitoring of the implementation of the RBMPs programme of measures &amp; Support the use of evidence-based data for policy making and review of RBMPs programme of measures</td>
<td>IOW</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Result 3 - Lessons learnt regularly collected, shared and communicated to stakeholders</strong></td>
<td>IOW</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.1 Development, regular update and implementation of a communication strategy for the project</td>
<td>IOW</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.2 Organization of exchanges in pilot projects to support public and stakeholder participation on the preparation, implementation, review and update of RBMPs developed under result 2</td>
<td>IOW</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.3 Establishment of a mechanism to harmonize practices and share information and communication with practitioners involved in WFD implementation and/or IWRM in the 6 EaP countries</td>
<td>IOW</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.4 Organization of international events (IE) including study visits (SV) to harmonize practices and share information and communication on WFD implementation, IWRM and MEAs</td>
<td>IOW</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
5.5 Risks and mitigation measures

The following risks have been identified key for Azerbaijan for which specific mitigation measures are proposed:

Risk 1: Governments are unstable.

The project will continue building and maintaining contacts at a variety of political and administrative levels. This provides some continuity, even in the case of political changes. In the past, short-term administrative instabilities have not significantly disturbed longer-term co-operation. In addition, international co-operation and peer pressure (through EU Delegations) are strong driving forces for water policy reforms and continuation of policy dialogue on this issue.

Risk 2: Reliable data for robust analytical work are not available.

The project team has accumulated experience in EaP countries to make the best use of existing data, to mobilise local expertise and to refer to expert knowledge when needed. Co-ordination with other projects (e.g. USAID, WB) will provide opportunities to share data and identify common sets of indicators in areas of mutual interest.

Risk 3: Absorption capacity is not sufficient to implement the Action effectively.

Lessons learned from prior activities in the target sector in the EaP countries indicate that absorption capacity on national and/or local levels can be the main bottleneck for successful and sustainable implementation of this project. First, absorption capacities can be limited due to the low number of available experts (headcount) and by their know-how and experience (knowledge). Second, absorption capacities can be limited because knowledgeable experts, whether trained within the project or not, get dismissed or voluntarily leave their positions, organisations or the sector altogether.

Absorption capacities will be a constant element of national and regional steering committee meetings and the NPD process. Close co-ordination with the multi-donor co-ordination units of the water sector in Azerbaijan will ensure identification of potential risks due to parallel activities in the sector. It should also allow decisions on appropriate counter measures. Expertise by local consultants can help overcome potential bottlenecks.
Chapter 6: Belarus

This chapter was based on analysis of country-specific official data, information from previous projects, outcomes of interviews with stakeholders in Belarus and a joint prioritisation exercise. It presents background for action and cross-cutting issues, and then describes the scope of activities. The Regional Steering Committee endorsed the country-specific work plan in May 2017.

6.1. Country background and scoping of project work

Belarus has generally enough water resources to meet current and future consumption needs, but insufficient quality remains a problem in certain rivers.

The Republic of Belarus (hereafter “RB” or “Belarus”) is a landlocked country between Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, the Russian Federation (hereafter “Russia”) and Ukraine. It occupies a land area of 207 600 km². As per BelStat data, the population in 2016 amounted to 9498.7 thousand people; some 22.4% was considered rural. Selected demographic and macro-economic indicators of relevance to managing water resources in 1990-2015 are presented in Table 6.1.

Belarus is famous for its forests (e.g. Belovezhskaya Puscha) and large wetlands from which many small rivers outflow. There are five major river basins, all transboundary:

**Baltic Sea Basin:** Neman, West Bug, West Dvina rivers.

**Black Sea Basin:** Dnieper River (with its largest tributaries: Pripyat, Berezina, Sozh). Pripyat River forms the fifth basin.

A small share of Belarus also forms part of the Lovat River Basin: the Lovat inflows into the Lake Il’men, Baltic Sea Basin.

Multi-year annual run-off (total renewable fresh water resources) amounts to 57.9 km; some 34 km³ forms on the territory of Belarus (precipitation), while the balance inflows from the neighbouring countries of Russia and Ukraine. Available fresh water resources amount to 3 580 m³ per capita per annum, which is double the “water stress” threshold (1 700 m³ per capita per annum).

Renewable fresh groundwater resources in more than 320 discovered deposits amounts to 15.9 km³. Available estimates (dating back to the mid-1980s) suggest that some 2.6 km³ could be abstracted without risk of resource depletion.

In 2014, annual fresh water abstraction amounted to 1 510 MCM; 667 MCM of surface water (some 1.2% of renewable surface water resources); and 843 MCM of groundwater (some one-third of annual useful groundwater resources).

The government set the policy target to limit groundwater abstraction to 800 MCM per annum.
The trans-basin water transfer amounts to 137 MCM per annum. Without the transfer, Minsk City and Minsk Oblast (province) – where some one-third of the total population of Belarus lives and some 37% of all fresh water abstracted in the country is used and consumed – would experience water stress.

Available data suggest that since 1990 over the transition to a market economy, Belarus has observed a decoupling of economic development from fresh water abstraction (Figure 6.1).

**Figure 6.1. Water intensity of GDP in Belarus**

![Water intensity of GDP in Belarus](image)

Source: Author’s own calculation based on BelStat and World Bank data.

Domestic and industrial water consumption, as well as irrigation and fish farming, have mostly driven water use and demand for water resources and water infrastructure. Domestic uses account for some 47% of total water abstracted, although per capita domestic water consumption has dropped from 210 litres per day (lcd) in 2005 to 133 lcd in 2015. Industrial water use amounts to 34.5% of total consumption with the energy sector by far the largest industrial water user (21% of total water abstracted).

The key challenges faced by Belarus in water management include the following:

- Regulatory and institutional frameworks (including economic regulation) require further improvement and compliance assurance requires strengthening.

- River Basin Management planning is still in its infancy; implementation of River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) is yet to be seen.

- Diffuse and point-source industrial pollution is evident – discharges of untreated wastewaters (at many industries, local wastewater treatment facilities are yet to be built).

- Water monitoring infrastructure and capacity require strengthening.

The policy framework for management of water resources and water infrastructure consists of respective laws and regulations; international agreements ratified or signed by the Republic of Belarus; national strategies, programmes and plans; and budgetary framework.

Belarus is Party to several water-related international and bilateral agreements (Table 6.1).
The National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD) is complemented by relevant sector strategies (including the National Water Strategy) and/or programmes (e.g. on housing and utility services, including domestic water supply and sanitation, or WSS).

The first draft RBMP was recently developed for Upper-Dnieper basin with assistance from the EPIRB project, but has not yet been implemented.

The NSSD and some sector strategies (e.g. for water transport) are now under revision; the new deadline for the revised sector strategies and programmes will likely be 2030 – in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to 2030 adopted in 2015. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Protection (hereafter “Minprirody”) has indicated revision of the National Water Strategy as a priority for implementation of the EUWI+ project in Belarus (see section 6.6). Table 6.1 presents baseline values of indicators envisaged in the logframe of EUWI+:

### Table 6.1. Water sector indicators and status in 2017: Belarus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overall national indicators</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improved practices of river basin management have contributed to stabilise or decrease pressure on water resources.</td>
<td>Significant progress observed over 1995-2015 in terms of reducing water intensity of purchasing power parities (PPP) gross domestic product (GDP): it dropped from 54 m³ per 1 000 USD to some 8.3 m³ over 1995-2015. Overall fresh water abstraction has dropped from 2 883 MCM to 1 396 MCM over 1995-2015.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The pace of convergence with the EU acquis aligns with commitments:</td>
<td>Belarus has no formal legal commitment to align with EU acquis. However, it is committed to harmonise certain aspects of water legislation. This includes, for example, WFD principles partially transposed in water legislation, particularly the new Water Code enacted in 2015.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harmonisation of WFD principles in the Water Code/water law</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A valuable contribution to SDG 6 &quot;Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all&quot; is achieved.</td>
<td>Progressed: coverage by centralised (piped) water supply amounted to 86%, and by piped sanitation (sewerage) – 74% of total population – a high figure for EECCA region. Indicators to monitor progress towards SDG 6 (and other water-related SDGs) are being developed (work in progress).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation of major principles of EU water acquis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation of basin principle</td>
<td>Some progress made: out of five basins, draft RBMP (first generation) developed for the Upper-Dnieper Basin District (with support from EPIRB project), but has not been implemented. First (Dnieper) Basin Council established in 2016.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost recovery of water services (incl. environmental and resource costs)</td>
<td>Partial recovery of operations and maintenance costs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes</td>
<td>Party.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Indicators | Status
--- | ---
Protocol on Water and Health to the Water Convention | Party.
Improved water allocation planning | Not yet part of the first RBMP.
Effective regulatory and governance arrangements are in place | Some progress made.
Needs for capacity development and regional activities | Local capacity is good, but with room for further strengthening.
Sustainable technical capacity development created and embedded in partner institutes | Local capacity is good, but with room for further strengthening.

**Source:** Author’s own elaboration.

### Support to water sector reform through the EUWI+ project

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) and associated directives encompass a large proportion of the EU water *acquis*, while the RBMP process provides an attractive and structured methodology based on IWRM principles. Belarus has displayed interest in aligning towards the principles the water-related EU *acquis*. It is a challenge for the country as water management and governance are under-funded and depend on support from the donor community.

Alignment towards the WFD is demanding both financially and technically. The objective of the EUWI+ project is to support six Eastern Neighbourhood countries, including Belarus, in the water sector reforms at different stages and levels—basin, national and transboundary. Result 1 of EUWI+ will strengthen the legal and regulatory framework at all levels through support for national water legislation. Result 2 will address the review and evaluation of monitoring, support development of new RBMPs, and management of data and information. Result 3 will help establish decision-making structures at the basin level.

### Key stakeholders consulted during the kick-off missions

The project team has extensively assessed the implementation status across each of three result areas in the six countries, in close consultation with the beneficiaries to establish project priorities and targets. The EUWI+ national kick-off meeting in Minsk on 21 November 2016 presented the scope of the project to the key beneficiary. Follow-up missions gathered reaction from a broad range of stakeholders such as representatives of *Minprirody* and subordinated bodies, other ministries and agencies, some large water users, the expert community, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and donor projects.

Meetings with key stakeholders following the kick-off meeting helped gather information to establish a baseline and identify country needs, as well as to establish contacts and mobilise political support to the EUWI+ project. Table 6.2 presents key local stakeholders:
### Table 6.2. Institutions and organisations met during the kick-off missions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution/organisation</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>National level</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minprirody</td>
<td>The key local partner for (and key beneficiary of) the project implementation in Belarus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bodies subordinated to Minprirody: Hydromet and other Republican centres responsible for environmental monitoring and analytical control; and research institutes. Ministry of Economy Ministry of Agriculture and Food Ministry of Housing and Utility Services Ministry of Energy Ministry of Forestry Ministry of Transport (Dept. of water transport) National Committee for Statistics (BelStat) Republican Centre of Hygiene, Epidemiology and Public Health Parliament (committees responsible for water and the aforesaid sectors – key water users) Expert community (research organisation) and prominent NGOs working on water issues</td>
<td>Key stakeholders with a strong link to water resources management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Basin and local level</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basin councils</td>
<td>The key basin and local level stakeholders relevant to the project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oblast and Minsk City administrations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large water users (e.g. Minskvodokanal and other water utilities) and their associations (including Aqua-Bel – the Association of Water Utilities)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>International stakeholders and projects</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The key international stakeholders (EUD et al.) and water-related projects (e.g. Green Economy for Belarus) relevant to the EUWI+ project</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A key focus of the missions was securing an agreement on an inter-agency body with advisory functions. Among other activities, the body could provide a platform for, and steer, discussions on issues related to water policy in Belarus. This could include discussion of draft documents and recommendations developed by the EUWI+ project. It could also host the National Policy Dialogue (NPD) process and serve as its co-ordination committee.

On 1 March 2017, the Minister of Minprirody signed an Ordinance on establishing an Inter-Agency Co-ordination Council on the use and protection of water resources outlining its composition, mandate, management structure and mode of work.

The implementing partners assessed a list of needs and priorities outlined by Minprirody was in terms of what and how much could be done within the project budget and timeframe. In this way, they could best address needs and priorities and ensure maximum value for money. The assessment considered mandates, expertise and constraints of both beneficiary institutions and respective implementing partners (*results presented in Annex C*).

**Overview of the inception phase findings**
The project team has extensively assessed the implementation status across each of the three result areas in the six countries, in close consultation with the beneficiaries to establish project priorities and targets.

The implementing partners recognised that strengthening water governance was a long-term task that would transcend the timeframe of a single project. Any achievement must lay down foundations for subsequent developments in the project design. All countries adopted a structured, incremental approach building towards implementation or approximation of the WFD at the heart of their strategies. The country work plans address all elements – legal and policy development, institutional reform, capacity building, investment and implementation – in a coherent manner. In this way, no one single element over-runs another. Instead, they are linked and move forward together and in synchrony. The need for any water governance system to be affordable in the medium and long term has been of prime concern for the design. Any system also needs flexibility to adjust to ever-changing political and economic circumstances.

To help establish the legal and institutional framework, the project will do the following:

- Help establish primary legislation for implementation or approximation of the WFD and secondary legislation for its technical application.
- Help develop strategies for WFD implementation in the short to medium term based on affordability and cost effectiveness.
- Help countries meet their obligations under Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) such as the Water Convention.
- Improve capacity of the main laboratories to comply with WFD monitoring requirements and to obtain enhanced accreditation at national and international level.
- Enhance capacity in ecological and biological monitoring including development of Ecological Status Classification Systems for upper and lower catchments and coastal zones.
- Strengthen monitoring systems for both surface water (SW) and groundwater (GW), and water quantity and quality.
- Increase capacity in RBMP in accordance with the WFD including in Associated Agreement countries’ maximum coverage of the first cycle of plans.
- Create mechanisms within the planning procedure for maximum integration of water sectors and uses with emphasis on the Flood, Nitrates, UWWT and Habitat directives.
- Establish institutions for the elaboration and implementation of RBMP at the national and basin level.
- Establish public consultation procedure in RBMPlanning in pilot basins.

The project will, in the delivery of the above, help the countries move towards their selected goals and agendas in a constructive fashion and in a manner tailored to their political and economic landscapes. The specific progress/target indicators under the EUWI+ project for Belarus are provided in Table 6.3.
Table 6.3. Baseline and targets for key indicators to be addressed by EUWI+ for Belarus (progress indicators)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Baseline (2016)</th>
<th>Target/Progress (2020)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overall national indicators</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Water Strategy serves as a key guiding policy document for the water sector</td>
<td>Water strategy to 2020 requires update.</td>
<td>New Water Strategy (to 2030) is adopted; among other goals, it integrates recent international commitments of Belarus (foremost, water-related SDGs and Paris Agreement on climate).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progress towards achieving water-related SDG 6 &quot;Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all&quot;</td>
<td>Indicators to monitor progress towards SDG 6 (and other water-related SDGs) are being developed (work in progress).</td>
<td>Country targets and indicators for SDG 6 established. Ad hoc methodological support provided in monitoring progress towards SDG 6 targets. Regional exchange on common challenges and lessons learned provided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inclusive platform operates to support water sector reforms, and stakeholder engagement and participation in water governance</td>
<td>NPD process is not yet established; however, Inter-agency Co-ordination Council created in March 2016; it could provide the platform for policy dialogue on water.</td>
<td>NPD on water became a recognised platform facilitating stakeholder engagement and participation in water management.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Implementation of major principles of EU water acquis**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Baseline (2016)</th>
<th>Target/Progress (2020)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cost recovery of water services (including environmental and resource costs)</td>
<td>Partial recovery of operations and maintenance costs.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring infrastructure is upgraded and in line with WFD principles</td>
<td>SW monitoring is laid down in secondary legislation and is “fixed”. GW monitoring in Belarus is governed by the code on national deposits and the Water Code plus bylaws for GW monitoring and standards. Changes in the scope of monitoring need to be applied one year in advance together with an explanation. GW and SW, monitoring programmes in the pilot basins of Dnieper and Pripyat and around Minsk are strengthened towards WFD compliance.</td>
<td>Monitoring networks aligned to national strategy of RBMP implementation in place, equipment partially upgraded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicators</td>
<td>Baseline (2016)</td>
<td>Target/Progress (2020)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support for GW and SW monitoring network and systems towards WFD compliance</td>
<td>Biological monitoring advanced in the State Hydromet agency in Minsk. Vision expressed to use the facility as regional centre of excellence. The GW monitoring network needs partial upgrade, and modernisation and practical measures.</td>
<td>Monitoring network and systems assessed. Training plan developed. Personnel trained in WFD-relevant monitoring methodologies and ecological assessment; training material available. GW and SW monitoring programme improved towards WFD principles. Biological monitoring improved towards WFD principles. GW monitoring network upgraded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support to laboratories analysis: quality management, training and equipment</td>
<td>The central laboratory of physical-chemical measurements at the Republican Centre of Analytical Control in the field of Environmental Protection in Minsk is accredited according to the international standard EN ISO/IEC 17025 at the Belarusian State Centre. Priority substances are not fully covered yet.</td>
<td>Laboratories assessed. Training plan developed. Personnel in WFD-relevant monitoring methodologies, QA/QC and accreditation topics trained and training material available. Existing/new laboratory equipment/infrastructure installed. Further analytical test methods developed and validated. Laboratories participated in proficiency testing schemes for selected WFD-relevant groups of parameters. Study visit to EU MS laboratories for lab personnel carried out.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training programme to strengthen competent authorities’ RBMP skills</td>
<td>Dnieper and Pripyat basin authorities.</td>
<td>Training programme established and implemented.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPIRB pilot RBMP refined, and implementation of selected measures</td>
<td>EPIRB Dnieper Pilot RBMP adopted by the Ministry in 2016. Some measures are being implemented on the basin; co-ordination could be improved.</td>
<td>Based on a preliminary assessment, refined Dnieper RBMP in line with the WFD principles. At least two measures have been implemented on Dnieper basin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New pilot RBMPs</td>
<td>Pripyat is a tributary of the Dnieper, basin with a RBMP.</td>
<td>Pripyat RBMP in line with the WFD principles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National guidelines</td>
<td>EPIRB project has already prepared guidelines.</td>
<td>Updated and improved guidelines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support to development of Dnieper or Pripyat umbrella plan</td>
<td>Country priority for transboundary RBMPlanning process.</td>
<td>Governance implemented (transboundary working group and three thematic groups); at least two annual meetings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of automated processing from water data producers to feed the water information system, with valorisation of data online</td>
<td>Water cadastre well defined mentioned in regulation.</td>
<td>Recommendations report on strengthening data management, support to data management and valorisation (web service, process of data valorisation).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procedure and tool for evaluating programme of measures (PoM) implementation progress</td>
<td>Low follow-up of the PoM’s implementation.</td>
<td>Dashboard or other tool; procedure guidelines; PoM draft implementation report.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicators</td>
<td>Baseline (2016)</td>
<td>Target/Progress (2020)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lessons learned are regularly collected, shared and communicated to stakeholders.</strong></td>
<td>Communication strategy is in place at basin, national and regional scale to share and communicate efficiently to main interested parties and up to the wide public.</td>
<td>Communication strategy developed, including consistent tested actions at different scales to support NPD and RBMP planning implementation. Mechanism for sharing information and communication between Result 1 and Result 2 established (e.g. web-based information exchange platform).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Evidence of use of communication tools developed and implemented</strong></td>
<td>Communication tools have been developed in the EPIRB project pilot basins and partially implemented.</td>
<td>Basin - and country-wide implementation of communication tools (awareness-raising events, information materials, websites, press releases, social media, E-learning, workshops) at basin, national and regional scale.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number and audience of targeted communication actions in line with the strategy implemented</strong></td>
<td>The prevailing situation in 2017 in the water sector as investigated during the early implementation phase.</td>
<td>Significant increase in targeted communication actions and audience for stakeholders’ involvement and public awareness raising on sound water resources management by the end of the project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of national institutions and organisations using IWRM knowledge and lessons learned generated for research, planning and policy making</strong></td>
<td>There are few forums for delivery of lessons learned at the national level and none at the basin level – the NPDs being an obvious example. Lessons learned are communicated, but not in a consistent and targeted manner.</td>
<td>Appropriate mechanisms developed to efficiently share lessons learned among main interested parties and stakeholders to harmonise positions on strategic documents (RBMP, thematic and sectoral plans, methodologies, regulation). Significant increase of ownership of strategic documents derived from water-related EU acquis, IWRM and MEAs by the end of the project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Evidence of establishment of stakeholder participation mechanisms at basin, national and international levels</strong></td>
<td>River Basin Councils (RBCs) established in the pilot basins within the framework of previous projects based on donor-driven process are not sustainable in the absence of perennial organisational and financial mechanisms. Key institutional stakeholders in the basin are being invited for discussions at each key stage of basin plan development, under the EPIRB project. Public participation and involvement remain limited.</td>
<td>Development of practices and progressive institutionalisation of stakeholder involvement mechanisms. Sustainable consensus building mechanisms in place at the end of the project to harmonise positions on strategic documents among main interested parties and stakeholders at the three main scales will be worked out in the communication strategy.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Author’s own elaboration.
Institutional development and sustainability

The Action EUWI+ is built on lessons learned from several EU development initiatives in the water sector in Belarus, primarily the EUWI EECCA and EPIRB projects.

As a key strategic element, EUWI+ helps Belarus develop its relevant institutions towards sustainable structures for WFD-compliant management of its water resources. The institutional structure and commitment of Belarusian project partners are considered a good basis for implementation of EUWI+. The institutional structure in Belarus is stable and fluctuation of experts is considered a minor issue.

6.2. Specific activities

Activity 1.1.1. Needs assessment and identification of priorities in the area of support on legislative, economic and RBM issues

Summary of status

As agreed between the project and country partners, face-to-face meetings with a broad range of national stakeholders and follow-up exchanges identified country priorities in the area of support on legislative, economic and RBM issues.

Dedicated sessions at the 19-20 September 2016 joint high-level event on EPIRB and EUWI+ projects in Kyiv, Ukraine yielded initial suggestions on country priorities. The Belarus delegation presented an overview of challenges in water resources management and outlined initial priorities to be discussed in more detail during the inception phase of the EUWI+ project.

The EUWI+ national kick-off meeting in Minsk on 21 November 2016 followed by one-on-one meetings with key stakeholders (see above) helped gather information to form a baseline and identify country needs.

At the end of January 2017, the National Focal Point in Minprirody provided the EUWI+ project team with an updated list of potential priority activities that further informed the needs assessment. The list was analysed and prioritised against such criteria as implementability with the project budget and timeframe, and expertise and mandate of the Result 1 implementing partners (OECD and UNECE). The resulting draft four-year work plan for Belarus is presented in Section 6.4.

Summary of main objectives

During the inception phase, the main objectives under Activity 1.1.1 in Belarus have been:

- identifying and prioritising country needs related to the legislative, economic and RBM issues

- achieving agreement on priority activities to be included in the draft work plan for Belarus.
These objectives were achieved.

**Methodology/Steps of implementation**

To avoid overlap, the country Roadmap will not be separately produced from the country chapter of the Inception Report. All features of the Roadmap are described in Activity 1.1.4 (see below) and in a matrix that analyses country priorities (see Annex C). The project could not fully implement all country needs identified during the inception phase due to limited resources. Therefore, since new priorities could emerge, the draft work plan could be revised each year to ensure the project focuses on the most urgent needs.

**Responsibilities and required inputs**

The work plan and milestones (Gantt Chart) provide a related overview at the end of this country chapter.

**Dependencies and synergies**

Update of the National Water Strategy and capacity development in Belarus could enjoy synergies with similar activities in other countries, as well as with regional activities on capacity development. It is also expected that the EUWI+ project will consistently seek synergies with other international initiatives and projects implemented in Belarus.

**Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks**

With no NPD established yet, the work plan could be endorsed at national level either by the newly established Inter-agency Co-ordination Council on the use and protection of water resources (hereafter called “Water Council”), or by Minprirody as key local beneficiary.

Not all country needs and priorities are immediately achievable; they have been prioritised in the country matrix.

**Activity 1.1.2. Organisation of NPD meetings and review of progress**

**Summary of status**

In the EUWI+ project, the OECD and UNECE organise at least one NPD meeting each year. From the six target countries of the EUWI+ project, Belarus has been the only one with no previous EUWI NPD process. Preparations began in late 2014 and recent discussions under the EUWI+ framework have led to an Ordinance on establishing the Inter-agency Co-ordination Council, which might serve as national NPD platform (see below).

**Summary of main objectives**

The main objective under Activity 1.1.2 has been establishing an inter-agency body (Water Council) to provide a platform for the NPD. The EUWI+ implementing partners will report to the NPD
meetings on progress in implementing their respective plans and activities in this country, including on RBMPs. The meetings will also support monitoring of respective national work plans.

**Methodology/Steps of implementation**

The Water Council was created in March 2017. Prior to that, Result 1 (OECD and UNECE) had shared documents on mandates and composition of similar advisory bodies in other countries in the region with Minprirod. The Water Council could provide a platform for the NPD. The first policy dialogue meeting was to be held in autumn 2017, after formal registration of the EUWI+ project as required by national legislation.

**Dependencies and synergies**

The upcoming NPD in Belarus could share experience with, and learn from, NPDs in other EaP countries, especially where the NPD is well-established (e.g. Armenia, Moldova).

**Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks**

Projects will be registered swiftly and the Water Council will provide strong leadership for the NPD in Belarus.

**Activity 1.1.3. Organisation of regional meetings and Project Steering Committee meetings**

**Summary of status**

**High-level regional kick-off meeting**: the EUWI+ project inception phase started in September 2016. To set the scene and to inform all key beneficiaries from the six countries about the project, a joint high-level regional meeting on the EPIRB and EUWI+ projects was organised in Kyïï, Ukraine on 19-20 September 2016. Delegations from all six partner countries, many represented by deputy ministers, attended the meeting.

**Summary of main objectives**

The main objectives are to ensure active participation of representatives of Belarus in the Regional EUWI+ Steering Committee meetings and eventual regional meetings. These meetings will be organised annually for key stakeholders from six EaP countries to facilitate exchange of experiences, share lessons learned and address transboundary issues.

**Methodology/Steps of implementation**

Regional EUWI+ Steering Committee meetings will be held each year. Relevant meeting materials and communication information in English and Russian will be produced for each meeting. Discussion at regional meetings will identify actions and next steps for achievement of agreed results in the work plan.

The first regional EUWI+ Steering Committee meeting took place on 15-16 May 2017 in Brussels with two representatives from Belarus attending. As one of its main decisions, the meeting approved the draft Inception Report with national work plans. The current report addresses comments collected at
and after the meeting. The next regional EUWI+ Steering Committee meeting was expected in spring 2018 where national work plans and the project logframe and indicators can be updated if necessary. In addition, other ad hoc thematic regional meetings and trainings will be held from which Belarus and other EaP countries will benefit.

Dependencies and synergies

Success of the regional meetings depends on availability of representatives of all six countries to participate and be prepared for discussions and decisions.

This activity could benefit from co-operation with the NPD process in Central Asia, as well as with regional training activities.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

Chairs of national NPD Steering Committees (normally deputy ministers) would attend regional EUWI+ Steering Committee meetings. Finding a time suitable to all may be a challenge and bottleneck. Suitable replacements should be identified to attend when required.

Activity 1.1.4. Ad hoc support to national processes related to the adoption of law/regulations and implementation of RBMPs, national plans on harmonisation of legal and normative acts with the requirements of the WFD, IWRM and MEAs

Summary of status

The Water Code of Belarus from 1998 establishes the main principles of water resources management in the country. The Code has been updated almost annually since 1998. The 2014 amendments took the Water Code closer to the WFD by creating a framework for implementation of the basin principle.

The National Water Strategy provides more concrete strategic goals and mechanisms for implementation of the Water Code. In October 2016, the government decided to initiate the updating or drafting of a new water strategy. The EUWI+ project was asked to support the process.

A small dedicated study was launched to support the inception phase and updating of the Water Strategy. It presented key legal acts regulating the water sector in Belarus, key actors and the interaction between them. In this way, it sought to identify options for improving the legal and regulatory frameworks, as well as interaction and co-operation between the key actors.

Summary of main objectives

The main objective has been identification of legal regulatory acts applicable in or impacting the water sector, as well as sector strategy and plans, and RBMPs. These, in turn, will allow an assessment against requirements of the WFD, IWRM and MEAs, and identify needs for support in this domain.
This objective has been achieved.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

Based on discussions with key stakeholders and analysis of the proposed priorities, support will be provided to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection in key priority areas:

- Update the National Water Strategy for the period until 2030 to integrate recent international obligations (foremost: Agenda 2030; Paris Agreement on Climate Change). The strategy must also cohere with new sectoral programmes for water-intensive sectors (foremost with sectoral programmes on agri-food, energy, water transport, utility services, forestry and fishery), as well as with water-related EU directives. Implementation at basin and local levels will be the focus. The OECD and UNECE will lead this work with input from all implementing partners.
- Launch a dialogue with Latvia and Russia on transboundary Western Dvina/Daugava basin by organising international meetings and assessing opportunities and benefits of co-operation (lead partner: UNECE).
- Assist with expert meetings and necessary studies on transboundary Neman River as preparation for a GEF project (lead partner: UNECE).
- Update national targets set under the Protocol on Water and Health in 2013 (lead partner: UNECE).
- Provide input to the upcoming International Water Forum in Minsk, scheduled for October 2017 (lead partner: OECD).

Dependencies and synergies

This activity co-operates closely with Results 2 and 3, as well as with neighbouring countries which developed the new water strategy or will soon do so (e.g. Ukraine). Several opportunities exist for sharing regional experience in strategy development.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

National-level support is required to deliver many of the reviews and to adopt proposals needed for reform.

Activity 1.2.1. Needs assessment and identification of priorities in the area of capacity development

Summary of status

Local capacity in Belarus is considered good, stronger than in some other EaP countries. However, it could be further strengthened, especially in such areas as strategic planning of water resources and water infrastructure, and economic and financial dimensions of water resources management, including use of economic instruments. These are common features for the region and may lend themselves to regional training opportunities.
Summary of main objectives

The main objective under Activity 1.2.1 in Belarus has been to identify needs for capacity development.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

Face-to-face meetings with a broad range of national stakeholders and follow-up exchanges identified country priorities in capacity development. Meetings with key local stakeholders helped gather information for a baseline and to identify country needs.

The needs assessment helped identify potential priorities for capacity development. More trainings may be needed at basin/regional level than at national/central government level. Several countries of the region, including Belarus, indicated these priority areas:

- Workshop on challenges and obstacles emerging while developing national water strategies.
- Provision of training on development and application of water allocation plans for national levels. The OECD could deliver a regional training on approaches to develop national water allocation priorities and rules, as well as on their application when developing water allocation plans at the basin level.
- Training to strengthen monitoring of the implementation of Protocol on Water and Health to the UNECE Water Convention.
- Training to strengthen monitoring progress with SDG 6.
- Regional workshop on available methodologies for ecological/environmental flow in rivers.
- Capacity development events to strengthen the knowledge base for co-operative water management.
- Use of economic instruments in managing water resources.
- Use of performance-based contracts with Vodokanals, etc.

Dependencies and synergies

Several common themes emerged during the inception missions that would be well served through regional training opportunities for interested countries. This activity would also benefit from whole of action co-operation (e.g. on strategic planning, on the use of economic instruments for water resources management) – see Activity 1.1.3.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

Identification and availability of key staff to attend trainings: the number of people dealing with water management is limited, and they are often overloaded with daily tasks.
**Activity 1.2.2. Organisation of trainings**

**Summary of status**

Local universities and several training centres (e.g. under Minprirody and the Ministry of Housing and Utility Services) provide training to both future professionals and experts working in the water sector. However, more training packages could add value.

**Summary of main objectives**

The main objective under Activity 1.2.2 in Belarus has been elaborating feasible approaches to organising trainings with the identified potential key partner(s) for future capacity development.

**Methodology/Steps of implementation**

Some trainings will be implemented in partnership with distinguished local training institutions. This will help achieve long-term sustainability of the EUWI+ results in capacity development in the water sector.

A prominent training centre – the Republican Center for State Environmental Expertise and Training under Minprirody – was identified as a good candidate for key partner for capacity development activities in Belarus. In addition, certain key national experts/officials may be needed for specific trainings or workshops organised by project partners outside Belarus.

To deliver local capacity results quickly, implementing partners will do the following:

- Focus on training packages (including packages available at implementing partners) that can provide maximum support for implementation of the work plan for Belarus and add most value for local beneficiaries; and organise respective pilot trainings.

- Explore the opportunity to co-operate with the IOWater training centre in France.

**Dependencies and synergies**

In addition to its national priorities, this activity would benefit from co-operation with regional training activities with the other five EaP countries.

**Activity 2.1.1. Assessment of monitoring and laboratory infrastructure, capacities and needs**

**Summary of status**

Discussions with experts, a first visit to laboratories during the inception phase, a distributed questionnaire and results from the previous EPIRB project all helped indicate the status. Main areas for further improvement towards WFD-compliant monitoring identified so far comprise the following:
- The **surface water** (SW) monitoring programme is laid down in secondary legislation. A mechanism for additional monitoring programmes for specific river basin needs to be developed and will be addressed under Result 1.

- **Groundwater** (GW) monitoring in Belarus is governed by the code on national deposits and the Water Code plus bylaws for GW monitoring and standards. Changes in the scope of monitoring need to be applied one year in advance together with an explanation.

- There is a need for modern equipment (quantity) of wells, geographic information systems (GIS) and training for staff for all aspects of sampling and monitoring.

- The **analytical capability** of the central laboratory of physical-chemical measurements must be enhanced so it can determine additional primary substances. The lab is at the Republican Centre of Analytical Control in the field of Environmental Protection in Minsk.

### Summary of main objectives

- Identify gaps between the laboratory and actual monitoring in the Dnieper and the Pripyat river basins and the area around Minsk against the needs of the WFD.

### Methodology/Steps of implementation

- Jointly evaluate available strategies, methodologies, procedures and guidance for monitoring and laboratory analysis, considering also the EPIRB achievements.

- Jointly assess GW and SW monitoring activities in the pilot basins of Dnieper and Pripyat and GW monitoring around Minsk (e.g. network design, sampling, parameters) in close relation to the outcome under Activity 2.3.1 concerning typology, water bodies and pressures.

- Conduct visits and in-depth assessment of each selected laboratory considering staff capacities, infrastructure, testing and sampling methods, equipment, status of accreditation and training needs.

### Dependencies and synergies

- Sustainable implementation of new methods and equipment needs a corresponding legal basis for the monitoring of the addressed substances.

- Long-term assignment of respective staff is a precondition to purchase of specific equipment and provision of training.

- Transboundary interaction in the Dnieper and Pripyat basin on SW and GW monitoring and RMBP development needs mutual commitment and regular meetings with Ukraine.

### Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

- Full commitment of beneficiary; availability and completeness of relevant information; alignment of involved institutions and focus on WFD implementation.
Activity 2.1.2. Purchase of equipment, including hydrological and water quality monitoring stations and rehabilitation and upgrade of existing equipment and existing laboratories

Summary of status

Water monitoring programmes need strengthening. GW and SW monitoring are operational, but not fully WFD-compliant. Also, the analytical capacity is not fully WFD-compliant, particularly regarding hazardous substances. Some equipment needs modernisation.

Summary of main objectives

- Implement upgrade and development plan for monitoring and laboratories including the following:
  - Jointly agreed list of monitoring and laboratory infrastructure, practical equipment and consumables needed and ranked according to priority in enabling the achievement of identified objectives under Activities 2.1.3, 2.3.2 and 2.3.4. This is particularly relevant to further achieve compliance with the WFD and its daughter directive requirements for tendering and purchase under Activity 2.1.2.
  - Description of staff capacities, including job specifications needed for sustainable operation of monitoring and each selected laboratory, considering available and newly purchased equipment and new methods. Identification of additional staff needed will be addressed under Result 1.
  - Amendments needed in terms of procedures and training of staff, considering available and newly purchased equipment and new methods. The identified needs will be addressed in the form of trainings under Activity 2.2.1.
- Deliver, install and hand over appropriate equipment, infrastructure and consumables as defined and agreed in the upgrade and development.
- Assure analytical service by fulfilling requirements of ISO/IEC 17025 in terms of availability of maintained equipment and availability of necessary infrastructure.
- Train staff and issue training certificates by the manufacturer (where applicable).
- Enhance analytical capabilities, reflecting a long-term perspective.
- Strengthen GW and SW monitoring programmes in the pilot basins of Dnieper and Pripyat and around Minsk towards WFD compliance.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

- Identify any relevant national procedures, such as customs clearance and procurement of equipment in full compliance with the legal requirements and rules applicable to this contract.
- Jointly elaborate tender dossier for the agreed list of infrastructure, equipment and consumables and submission to the official journal.
- Evaluate and document bids, identify best offer; assign and contract.
- Rehabilitate, upgrade and enhance monitoring sites, equipment and laboratories following the respective upgrade and development plans.
- Install monitoring sites and equipment, and train staff on use of equipment, acceptance procedure, compliance with specifications, approval and documentation.

**Dependencies and synergies**

- WFD compliance of GW and SW monitoring and laboratories is subject to comprehensive check under Activity 2.1.1.

**Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks**

- The project must ensure technical specifications are not tailored to a specific product; free and independent procurement must also be safeguarded.
- Sustainability of investments in equipment depends on long-term coverage of financial means for maintenance and consumables.

**Activity 2.1.3. Technical support to laboratories for accreditation**

**Summary of status**

The central laboratory of physical-chemical measurements at the Republican Centre of Analytical Control in the field of Environmental Protection in Minsk is accredited according to the international standard EN ISO/IEC 17025 at the Belarusian State Centre for Accreditation (BSCA). The accreditation applies to nitrogen, phosphorus compounds, metals (including heavy metals and Hg), organochlorine pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls, PAH and oil index in water and sediments. Priority substances are not fully covered yet. Although the WFD requests analysis of pollutants in biota, this has not occurred yet.

- Detailed planning of this activity depends on the outcome of Activity 2.1.1. The laboratories’ compliance with the technical and management requirements of the international standard EN ISO/IEC 17025 (general requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories) will be assessed in depth as basis for further support towards accreditation. The level of support also depends on available equipment and those which were purchased/upgraded/refurbished under Activity 2.1.2.

**Summary of main objectives**

- Further assist the Republican Centre of Analytical Control to expand accreditation scope for determination of additional priority substances required by the WFD and EQS Directive.
- Ensure a pre-audit assessment report reveals the degree of compliance with requirements of the ISO/IEC 17025 standard.
- Conduct study visits.

**Methodology/Steps of implementation**

- Clarify accreditation procedure, costs and timeline with the national accreditation body.
- Develop and validate method for additional priority substances.
- Review and update of QM-documentation.
- Hold tailored technical trainings and trainings of selected management aspects, e.g. audit seminar for QA staff executed under Activity 2.2.1.
- Participate in proficiency testing schemes in water analysis for selected groups of parameters as external quality control measure.
- Visit selected laboratories and administrative bodies of the consortium partners to demonstrate all aspects of accreditation and their implications in routine day-to-day practice.
- Undertake pre-audit assessment to reveal degree of compliance with requirements of the ISO/IEC 17025 standard.

Dependencies and synergies

The detailed planning of this activity depends on the outcome of Activities 2.1.1 and 2.1.2.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

- Provision of technical support depends on equipment purchased under Activity 2.1.2, which brings up the issue of whether investments are sustainable.
- Laboratory staff need to be available and motivated to actively continue the required working steps between the missions in a partly independent manner.
- Training on methodologies for analysing certain parameters needs a corresponding legal basis for monitoring of addressed substances.

Activity 2.2.1. Preparation of training plans and organisation of hands-on trainings and training of trainers with regard to monitoring and laboratory analyses and to support laboratories for accreditation

Summary of status

Though relevant and responsible experts in the administrative bodies were involved in the implementation of the EPIRB project, EPIRB experts did most of the work. The national administration has limited capacity on its own to accomplish or extend the WFD implementation to further river basins.

Summary of main objectives

- Create a critical mass of qualified staff that can continue independently to develop and maintain the water monitoring and laboratory analysis in line with the WFD requirements.
- Ensure qualified staff can further train national experts and increase the mass and capacity of qualified staff.
- Base training plans on upgrade and development plans defined under Activity 2.1.1.
- Make training documents available and fit for use after the project ends.
Methodology/Steps of implementation

Administrative bodies need capacity building to ensure sustainability. Based on achievements in the EPIRB pilot of the Dnieper basin, the trainings will review and potentially update the RBMPs. They will be expanded to the new pilot of the Pripyat basin and focus on the area around Minsk to support development of RBMPs. Training considers all WFD-relevant aspects of GW, SW, quantitative, chemical, hydromorphological and biological monitoring.

- Joint development of training plans, competence profiles and training targets derived from the needs identified under Activities 2.1.1, 2.1.3 and 2.3.1 and the upgrade and development plans defined under Activity 2.1.2. The plans compile and co-ordinate the single training aspects throughout the project and will be adopted according to the implementation progress and needs identified throughout the project phase.
- Revision and preparation of corresponding training material.
- Intensive hands-on training is provided on:
  - monitoring design (e.g. network, parameters, frequency) and management
  - sampling of quantitative, chemical and biological and assessment of hydromorphological indicators (including fish for upstream catchments) in close connection with Activities 2.3.4 and 2.3.5
  - use, calibration, maintenance of equipment and infrastructure for sampling, monitoring and laboratory analyses
  - evaluation of monitoring results and link to RBMPs
  - exchange of experience and trainings for selected topics of the EN ISO/IEC 17025 standard for laboratory accreditation
  - training of trainers for all aspects
  - preparation of strategies, road maps, guidance and templates.

Dependencies and synergies

- A regional Centre of Excellence as a knowledge hub in Minsk at the Hydromet for biological assessment will be established to provide facilities and venues for workshops and training courses. Experts from the centre will also be available for training and knowledge transfer in other countries.
- Use of the training centre at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection is available for project meetings, workshops and trainings.
- If needed, junior experts are recruited and competencies and skills reinforced during the project.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

- Administrative staff must be available and motivated to attend the trainings and implement the required working steps between the training sessions in a partly independent manner.
- Capacities, and national funds and logistics must be sufficient.
- Long-term assignment of respective staff is a precondition to sustainability of capacities.

**Activity 2.3.1. Assessment of the needs and identification of priorities in implementation of the RBMPs**

**Summary of status**

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection with support from several donors has been actively developing RBMP across Belarus, including the Neman and Western Bug. Most recently the ministry developed a WFD-compliant Upper Dnieper RBMP with support of the EPIRB project adopted by the ministry in 2016. A Dnieper basin council was also established. The RBMP has some shortcomings with respect to economic analysis, and limited studies of adaptation to climate change.

**Figure 6.2. River basins in Belarus**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basins</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Western Dnieper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bug</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dnieper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pripyat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Summary of main objectives**

The main objective of this activity is to assess existing Upper Dnieper RBMP for its compliance with the WFD, identify measures needed for its improvement and its implementation.

**Methodology/Steps of implementation**

- Review and assess in depth the methodologies/RBMP of the Upper Dnieper pilot basin developed under EPIRB and identify compliance gaps regarding WFD requirements (check list).
- Identify training needs to provide the most relevant methodological support, including capacity building on WFD implementation and RBMP preparation, and on-the-job training of responsible authorities especially for the Upper Dnieper and Pripyat basins (Activity 2.3.2.).

**Dependencies and synergies**

Linked with Activity 2.3.2.

**Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks**

Dedicated teams to new tasks related to RBMP development and monitoring of implementation must be identified at an early stage of the project.

**Activity 2.3.2. Technical support in the elaboration and implementation of the pilot RBMPs**

**Figure 6.3. The planning cycle of the EU WFD and its consecutive implementation steps**

**Summary of status**

Different sectors are developing actions related to water management. This activity could demonstrate the feasibility of new exemplary actions derived from sectoral water-related directives or seen as key to foster effective measures.
During kick-off mission, financing of the programme of measures was a serious concern. Most measures will be implemented through the national budget (transferred to municipalities and Regional Committees of National Resources) and through dedicated National Sectoral Programmes (such as Program Clean Water). From EPIRB pilot Upper Dnieper RBMP, most of the supplementary measures concern wastewater management, which are generally more expensive.

The ministry expressed high interest in working on the Pripyat River Basin and developing a full-fledged RBMP that would consider adaptation to climate change, including flood risk analysis and drought, and the important issue of wetlands.

The confluence of Pripyat and Dnieper is located downstream in Ukraine. Of its 760 km total length, 495 km lies within the territory of Belarus. Of the 114 300 km² total area of the Pripyat basin, 52 700 km² are within Belarus. Belarusian Pripyat River Basin covers 25% of the country’s area.

This activity is identified in the country priorities (Activities 5 and 6, see Annex C). The new RBMP should consider the outputs of EPIRB project Upper Dnieper RBMP, particularly around climate change.

**Summary of main objectives**

- Refine the RBMP and support implementation of soft measures from the programme of measures of the Upper Dnieper River Basin Management Plan.
- Develop a WFD-compliant RBMP for Pripyat basin.
- Tailor methodologies and guidance documents on relevant technical elements to the needs of Belarus and ready for national application, and roadmap for country-wide implementation of technical RBMP elements.

Upper Dnieper and Pripyat RBMPs will be the basis to develop the Dnieper umbrella plan.

**Methodology/Steps of implementation**

Supervision through learning-by-doing and provision of methodological support to the BMOs and other institutions most involved in operational management are the major points. A critical mass of qualified staff will be able to continue RBMP elaboration, review and update independently.
Refinement of EPIRB pilot RBMP

In light of outcomes of Activity 2.3.1, the revision of technical elements of the Upper Dnieper RBMP will be supported through on-the-job trainings. Some non-WFD compliant elements e.g. public consultation will be reported and realised under Result 3. For example, technical elements of the Upper Dnieper RBMP, particularly the shift of SWB delineation to WFD system B, and monitoring design, will be revised.

Support will be provided for methodology to include assessment of climate change impact. Revisiting of programme of measures (PoM) and related economic analysis can be integrated into efforts to monitor PoM (Activity 2.3.7).

Implementation of measures from EPIRB Upper Dnieper RBMP

The first step will be to select the priority pilot measures from the PoM. The process will be participative, in the spirit of the WFD and in co-ordination with communication activities (Result 3).

“Soft” measures could be selected from the Upper Dnieper RBMP:

- supporting operationalisation of basin council
- organising and optimising network for hydrological and hydromorphological observation regime on water bodies
- developing surveillance monitoring network of the state of water bodies and water systems
- implementing Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) in agriculture
- regulating land use with water protection zones (WPZ).

The link with sectoral plans will be important to demonstrate the necessary co-ordination and integration for water resources management, and to leverage funding.

The MS experts’ team will then support the competent authorities and project owners to implement the selected measures. It will draw on its experience in project management, preparation of studies and terms of references, implementation, mobilisation of funds, etc.

Development of Pripyat RBMP

The technical elements of RBMP elaboration cover SW and GW body delineation, SWB typology characterisation, pressures and impact assessment, monitoring network design, monitoring and risk and status assessment (chemistry, biology and quantity).

The strategic elements of RBMP elaboration cover identification of significant water management issues, establishment of environmental objectives, economic analysis, establishment of PoM, public consultation, etc.

The project will provide support to the competent authorities in the form of intensive hands-on training and workshops aligned to the WFD Guidance documents. These could include subjects such
as water body delineation and characterisation, pressures and impact assessment, establishment of environmental objectives, design of monitoring programme, status and risk assessment covering the evaluation of monitoring results, economic analysis, development of PoM, preparation of a RBMP, public consultation, etc.

In addition, the development of several chapters of the RBMP might be supported under tendered contract with national partners and consultants approved by the beneficiary. The winning contractor will work closely with the planning unit of the beneficiary organisation in accordance with the detailed terms of reference. The MS experts’ team will provide technical and strategic support to both the contractor and the beneficiary in developing a compliant plan.

The RBMP development will roughly proceed according the following steps:

- Setting-up the governance for the preparation of the RBMP, organisation of regular co-ordination meetings and consultation meetings with the main stakeholders and a wider public to facilitate RBMP further implementation.
- Identification of the significant water management issues for the RBMP planning cycle.
- Characterisation of river basin (WFD article 5), including: surface water and groundwater bodies delineation and characterisation, pressures assessment (domestic, industrial and agricultural; point and diffuse sources) and impact analysis (especially hydropower plants impacts on hydromorphology and environmental flows; water balance), protected areas delineation (drinking water protected areas, sensitive areas regarding urban wastewater or hydropower plant locations, vulnerable zones towards nitrates from agriculture sources, specific zones for habitats, etc.), baseline and prospective scenarios to integrate the trend of the main pressures, economic analysis (water use, cost recovery - WFD article 9), risk analysis.
- Design of monitoring programme (surveillance and operational) and network (WFD article 8), establishment of a compliance regime for assessing water bodies status, assessment of water status (surface water and groundwater; biology, chemistry and quantity).
- Setting up of environmental objectives (WFD article 4) for water bodies and protected areas.
- Programme of measures to ensure achievement of environmental objectives (WFD, article 11).
- Finalisation of the RBMP (WFD article 13). Consistency with existing RBMPs must be considered.
- Public consultation procedures in line with the WFD (see Result 3).

Elaboration of national guidelines

The MS experts’ team will develop national guidance documents in line with the WFD and associated directives. If necessary and in addition to EPIRB guidelines produced, the national guidelines will include specific examples gained from pilot basin experiences and will be adapted to country specificities and demands (e.g. heavy modified and artificial water bodies designation process).

The guidelines will contain a portfolio of priority action cards to guide the different steps of planning process and implementation.

A roadmap of technical RBMP elements will be helpful for country-wide implementation.
Dependencies and synergies

Developing this activity, the MS experts team will carefully ensure co-ordination and promote synergies with:

- Result 1 for basin councils mandate and organisations of training
- Activity 2.3.1
- Activity 2.3.3 for transboundary RBMP process
- Activity 2.3.4 and 2.3.5 for monitoring
- Stakeholders involvement activities under Result 3
- Belarusian sectoral planning documents
- Strategies developed in other EaP countries, MS countries and in the EU Common Implementation Strategy process
- Other international projects.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

The need for supportive consultants will be reviewed after a broad mobilisation of competencies and knowledge of Belarusian institutions. This input will be optimised based on budget constraint and call for extra input organised.

This activity will be a concrete exercise to organise communication between different stakeholders (State agencies, river basin organisations, project owners...).

Some tasks could take longer than the available project time, but they will be carefully defined to ensure their achievement.

Activity 2.3.3. Technical support to the RBM institutions to tackle co-ordination in transboundary river basins

Summary of status

The inception phase welcomed the idea that Ukraine would tackle Dnieper basin. It would lead to an RBMP for the main part of Dnieper basin and would help attract Russia, which is the third party of this third largest basin in Europe.

New experience from work in progress on adaptation to climate change in the Neman with Lithuanian experts could be shared with Dnieper basin.

This activity will be aligned with the following identified country priorities:

- Country priority n°4: Support the creation and activities of transboundary basin councils (preferably jointly with Ukraine, e.g. Dnieper and Pripyat basins).
Summary of main objectives

All Belarusian River Basin Districts are transboundary. Thus, competent authorities in charge of RBM Planning should implement a harmonised transboundary planning process in the following way:

- Consider the proper scale for river basin management – the river basin – even if transboundary basins may be more complex to manage than river basins exclusively within the national borders.
- Have a coherent approach and develop synergies with riparian countries for the planning process, particularly for sharing objectives, for monitoring water resources and for defining the PoM.
- Take advantage of and valorise the respective countries’ experiences regarding the RBMP and implementation of the WFD to capitalise on this experience more effectively.
- Promote broader co-ordination and trust between the riparian countries sharing river basins.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

To support the competent authority and line agencies to tackle co-ordination for transboundary river basin management, the MS experts’ team will do the following:

- Assess RBMP development on both sides of the border.
- Strengthen cross-boundary working groups.
- Consider the main transboundary issues and harmonise the different steps of the planning process with a focus on water bodies delineation, monitoring and objectives.
- Organise exchange of practices with other European transboundary basins to present different co-ordination processes.

A local consultant will organise this activity through: meeting schedules, agendas, reports, follow-up of activities, transboundary study tours, etc.

Dependencies and synergies

Developing this activity, the MS experts’ team will carefully ensure co-ordination and promote synergies with Activities 2.3.1, 2.3.2. and 2.3.4. about Dnieper and Pripyat RBMP and monitoring. The Ecological Status Classification System (ESCS) developed under the EPIRB project will be applied to establish a common baseline. Experience from RBMP development activities in the six countries will be shared.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

The willingness of each country for cross-boundary works and assignment of sufficient human resources will be the main bottlenecks. Different rhythms and organisation between the countries could limit the global synergy.
**Activity 2.3.4. Carry out ecological and chemicals surveys as needed to develop and implement the RBMPs, including intercalibration exercise and organisation of joint field surveys in transboundary rivers**

**Summary of status**

Transboundary SW and GW monitoring (together with UA) was already performed under the EPIRB. It covered chemical monitoring in SW and GW and hydromorphology and biology in SW. The continuation of (transboundary) surveys under EUWI+ is highly appreciated. Benthic sediment monitoring was started, but further assistance is needed.

**Summary of main objectives**

- Contribute to comparability of data between the shared Dnieper and Pripyat river basins.
- Fill gaps in monitoring data to allow for review/update of the Dnieper RBMP, respectively the development of the new RBMP of the Pripyat basin in terms of characterisation and classification (risk and status assessment) of SWBs and GWBs, and the inter-calibration of national SW status assessment regimes under Activity 2.3.2.
- Link biological monitoring experts from neighbouring countries.

**Methodology/Steps of implementation**

- Develop monitoring schemes of field surveys and joint transboundary field surveys.
- Execute field surveys and joint transboundary surveys in SW and GW covering chemical (also priority substances), hydromorphological and relevant biological indicators in close adjustment with Activity 2.2.1.
- Provide intensive hands-on training on:
  - sampling and monitoring of quantitative, chemical and biological indicators and the assessment of hydromorphology
  - use, calibration, maintenance of equipment and infrastructure for sampling, on-site monitoring and logistics and sample treatment
  - evaluation of monitoring results.
- Jointly develop monitoring schemes, survey manuals, organisation of the surveys, mission reports and evaluation.

**Dependencies and synergies**

- Synergies with Activity 2.2.1 (hands-on training) and Activity 2.1.3 (towards accreditation).
**Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks**

- Transboundary SW and GW surveys in the Dnieper and Pripyat basins need mutual commitment with Ukraine on transboundary co-operation and willingness to share information and data.
- Junior staff experts are recruited, and competencies and skills built during the project as needed.
- Necessary additional equipment under Activity 2.1.2 needs to be purchased.
- Sufficient capacities, national funds and logistics are needed.

**Activity 2.3.5. Investigatory monitoring of water bodies at risk of high pollution or related issues**

**Summary of main objectives**

- Discover reasons for unknown exceedances, the unknown reasons for risk, or the causes of failure of good status or the magnitude and impacts of accidental pollution.
- Fill gaps in monitoring results for proper review/establishment of the programmes of measures of the RBMPs.

**Methodology/Steps of implementation**

- Jointly identify sites and parameters subject to investigatory monitoring, depending on the results of the pressure and risk assessments under Activity 2.3.2.
- Develop monitoring schemes, survey manuals, organisation of the surveys, mission reports and evaluation of the survey and the data gathered.

**Dependencies and synergies**

- Results of the pressure and risk assessments under Activity 2.3.2.

**Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks**

- The scope very much depends on the results of the pressure and risk assessments within the RBMP elaboration under Activity 2.3.2, the selected pollution cases, the substances concerned, and the sampling and laboratory equipment available.
- Necessary additional equipment purchased under Activity 2.1.2 is in place.
- Capacities, and national funds and logistics are sufficient.
**Activity 2.3.6. Development and strengthening of national databases on water related issues and ensure compliance of data with SEIS principles for collection and sharing of data**

**Summary of status**

**Table 6.4. Compliance of data management with SEIS principles**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Situation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legislation on data management</td>
<td>Water cadastre well defined mentioned in regulation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WIS/water cadastre</td>
<td>Cadastre includes various elements that are not integrated. Water cadastre is not available online.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data sources</td>
<td>Various data sources in various formats .mdb, .xls and .doc. Low use of GIS.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Opportunities/synergies     | Central research institute for complex use of the water resources (CRICUWR) is a potential partner  
- Could co-ordinate data collection/processing  
- Possibility to host server at CRICUWR who could also provide IT technical staff for maintenance. |
| Others                     |                                                                                                                                           |

**Summary of main objectives**

**Table 6.5. Compliance of data management with SEIS principles**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initial official request</th>
<th>Country priority n° 17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Complementary request of partners | Central research institute for complex use of the water resources  
- Lack of geographical referential  
- Hydromet water quality department  
- Automatise processes of data exchanges and of data processing  
- Online valorisation of results via web mapping  
- National Centre for Analytical Control in the Field of Environmental Protection  
- Automatise processes of data exchanges and of data processing  
- Online valorisation of results via web mapping  
- National Statistical Committee  
- Support to SEEA indicators production. |

Developing automatized processing from water data producers to feed the water information system, with valorisation of data online to facilitate:

- production of information for RBMP following needs  
- access to data for SEIS indicators production  
- better access to data and information to partners and to the public (following rights given by the initial data producers).
Methodology/Steps of implementation

Figure 6.4 summarises the global approach.

**Figure 6.4. Potential scenario for reinforcing water data management**

The implementation of this approach will include activities related to the following:

**Organisational aspects**
- Support adaptation of regulation on water cadastre related to data policy among others for RBMP/SEIS.
- Hold workshop on data management (exchange on situation, data flow analysis, presentation of metadata production process, need analysis).
- Support development of agreements on data exchanges with partners (mainly ministries of emergencies).
- Support organisation of metadata production with/by the data producers (cf. Inspire).
- Sign agreement with CRICUWR for server hosting and administration access via IOWater in a first step and then by MENR:
  - Identify local CRICUWR technical administrator.
  - Identify co-ordinator at MENR/WRM.
- Sign agreement about what can be published.
Technical aspects
- Install acquisition server at CRICUWR following an agreement.
- Support catalogue of metadata preparation/implementation.
- Support WRM section staff for data collection from data producers.
- Support Hydromet/quality dept. to automatically calculate indices of water quality.
- Support Water Control Institute to develop web mapping (pilot test for Pripyat River Basin).
- Support information production for RBMP (processing for map and indicators production).

Dependencies and synergies
- Activity 2.3.7. Establish a system for regular monitoring of the implementation of the RBMP plans of action and support the use of evidence-based data for policy making and review of RBMP plans of action.
- Activity 3.1.2: Organisation of exchanges in pilot projects to support public and stakeholder participation in the preparation, implementation, review and update of RBMPs developed under Result 2.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks
The good development of these activities requires the following:
- political will to organise water data sharing between institutions
- clear sharing of responsibilities and tasks between the various organisations involved in water data production/management and valorisation
- availability of online server with possibilities to install the necessary software
- availability of staff for:
  - technical management of the information system
  - organisation of data exchange between institutions.

Activity 2.3.7. Establish a system for regular monitoring of the implementation of the RBMPs and support the use of evidence-based data for policy making

Summary of status
Minprirody adopted the EPIRB pilot Upper Dnieper RBMP. PoM implementation of an RBMP is at the core of an effective integrated water resources management.

Different sectors are developing measures related to water management with poor overview on their influence or impact over water resources.
**Summary of main objectives**

This activity is targeted at raising awareness among decision makers on the need for reliable indicators to assess RBMP implementation and reorient regional water policies if needed, and providing tools for easy visualisation and understanding, such as a dashboard.

It will be focused on EPIRB pilot Upper Dnieper River Basin. The gained experience will be a reference for up-scaling a dashboard at country scale.

**Methodology/Steps of implementation**

This activity will analyse the set of indicators and complete it to cover implementation of the PoM, considering both the relevance of the indicators and availability of data produced on a regular basis.

The implementation steps are as follows:

- Analyse in detailed PoM and categorisation/typology of measures, including responsibilities.
- Identify/develop appropriate indicators to monitor the implementation of measures.
- Analyse available indicators: gather national policy papers from the different sectors and identify measures implemented in EPIRB pilot river basin; study possibility of using work on the SDGs; develop practices to use socio-economic data to extrapolate quantified information about pressures; water resources status; etc.
- Propose a procedure and responsibilities for regularly evaluating implementation progress.
- Prepare data necessary for an interim report about PoM implementation.

Actions will consist in trainings and desk support for settling the process of linking indicators to decision making.

**Dependencies and synergies**

To optimise work on the dashboard, the activity will be closely connected to Activity 2.3.6. National databases on water-related issues must be developed and strengthened. Collection and sharing of data must comply with SEIS principles.

In this logic, different administrative bodies in charge of implementation should use existing and regularly updated database as much as possible to select indicators.

This activity is associated to Activity 2.3.2 about implementation of the pilot RBMP.

Experience from other EaP countries will be shared, especially from Ukrainian Upper Dnieper basin.
Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

Given the four-year length of the project and the time needed to collect and validate data, some results will be difficult to highlight. However, the methodology will be familiar. Consistency with sectoral plans will be sought.

Activity 3.1.1. Development, regular update and implementation of a communication strategy for the project

Summary of status

Communication and public awareness were developed with important support from previous technical assistance or institutional support projects in Belarus. In this regard, close co-ordination with ongoing initiatives is required.

Following the WFD process, work by public authorities together with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and relevant partners is increasingly integrated as common practice with the aim to support reforms in the water sector.

Summary of main objectives

Effective communication with targeted stakeholders and the public is essential for in-depth involvement in implementation and decision process, and for raising awareness of the need for good environmental practices by different actors. In this regard, the communication strategy will target the following objectives to serve the needs of IWRM:

- Support policy process and influence specific policies or policy makers around key aspects of IWRM.
- Encourage participation of key stakeholders to maintain good status of water resources.
- Build awareness on the project objectives among different water users groups.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

The communication strategy will allow Belarus to continue strengthening its ability in this field. It will be closely linked with supporting new legislation and national strategies, setting up National Policy Dialogue (Result 1) and RBMP development and implementation (Result 2). It will be done with the main players in this domain and with the training centre of the Minprirody where applicable.

Core activities underpinning the execution of public participation and communication strategies will include the following:

- assessing the main communication actions for participative RBMP planning
- developing and annually updating a communication and stakeholders’ involvement strategy to be co-ordinated at national and basin scales.
Main communication tools:

- Prepare and publish information materials: leaflets on the national components (in English and Belarusian), brochures on pilot demonstrations, project newsletter, press releases, media articles.
- Develop and maintain project website with a country page.
- Promote activities related to effective communication with targeted stakeholders and the wider public: communication campaigns, school information sessions, conferences, seminars and workshops, roundtables and other events, press briefings or meetings with journalists.

Dependencies and synergies

This is a cross-cutting issue with many synergies at basin, national and international levels with activities under Results 1 and 2.

Development of data and information platform will link with local database.

Activity 3.1.2. Organisation of exchanges in pilot projects to support public and stakeholder participation in the preparation, implementation, review and update of RBMPs developed under Result 2

Summary of status

According to the new Water Code, Belarusian legislation requires establishment of basin councils. Key stakeholders must be involved in basin plan development and implementation. Five basin councils will be responsible for the five main country basins. One basin council has been established (Dnieper basin) involving high level representatives of three Oblasts, local authorities, representatives of other ministries, etc.

Summary of main objectives

- Prepare elements and test implementation of the provisions of Article 14 of the WFD on water users’ participation and public consultation.
- Support the Minprirody to co-ordinate basin working groups and public consultation aimed at developing among key interested parties a common understanding of the aim of RBMPlans and maintaining communication on actions in each river district.
- Mobilise the Dnieper RB Council for consultation on the revised plan and priority measures.
- Support operationalisation of the river basin councils foreseen in the law.
- Provide methodological and technical support to establish a river council for the Pripyat River (harmonisation of RBC guidelines, rules and procedures...).
Under this activity, Country priority n°3 will also be addressed with respect to the following issues:

- Support the creation and activities of basin councils at the national level.

**Methodology/Steps of implementation**

- Set up and possibly institutionalise stakeholders’ involvement mechanism at different basin scales. This will include methodological and technical support to Dnieper and Pripyat basin councils, as well as organisation and facilitation of meetings with stakeholders, to build consensus on shared objectives of RBMPs and PoM.

Main activities will include the following:

- Assess mechanism to harmonise practices and share information and communication with practitioners involved in WFD implementation at basin scale and strengthening
- Identify and mobilise relevant stakeholders in the pilot basins to establish stakeholder dialogue at basin level: all socio-economic actors, general public and organisations that may engage in consultation.
- Develop mechanisms for stakeholders’ participation in development and implementation process of the RBMPs.
  - Prepare consultation strategy in the pilot basins in line with the legal and administrative setup developed in Result 1.
  - Develop functioning rules for operational basin council (composition, consultation process, governance, role of the secretariat, etc.).
  - Hold training session and coaching on how to facilitate consultation workshops with selected stakeholders.
- Organise and facilitate meetings with stakeholders to build consensus on shared objectives of RBMPs:
  - Consult on work plan and pre-identify main water issues.
  - Consult on PoM to tackle the objectives and draft RBMP.
- Develop guidelines on public participation in relation with the WFD.

** Dependencies and synergies**

This is a cross-cutting issue with many synergies at basin and national levels with Activities 2.3.1, 2.3.2 and 2.3.6, but also with Result 1.

Close collaboration is requested with other projects and initiatives.
Activity 3.1.3. Establishment of a mechanism to harmonise practices and share information and communication with practitioners involved in WFD implementation and/or IWRM in the six EaP countries

Summary of status

RBMP are endorsed both at basin level through river basin council (represented institutions are those that will implement the measures at basin scale) and at national level (co-ordination is made through inter-ministerial consultation, but only for the Dnieper basin at this stage).

River Basin Councils include high-level members of local authorities, regional committees of natural resources, representatives of Ministry of Housing and Communal Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Vodokanals, etc.

The RBMPPlan will be developed in the districts of Belarus under the Water Code. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection will manage the work, involving different line ministries and local executive and administrative bodies. This requires important co-ordination efforts at national scale that will be extended at basin scale.

Table 6.6. Organisations involved in water management and their main functions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of organisation</th>
<th>Management function</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection (Minprirody) (<a href="http://www.minpriroda.gov.by">http://www.minpriroda.gov.by</a>)</td>
<td>Overall co-ordination in management of river basins. Drafting of RBMPs and water balances projects with participation of interested state bodies, as well as requirements for their design, preparation and execution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUE “Central Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources” (CRICUWR) (<a href="http://www.cricuwr.by">www.cricuwr.by</a>) under Minprirody</td>
<td>Development and preparation of RBMPs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River Basin Council</td>
<td>Participation (consultation) in the development, reviewing, harmonisation and implementation of RBMPs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local executive and administrative bodies (oblast and Minsk city executive committees)</td>
<td>Approval of RBMPs and water balances (in case of absence, approved RBMPs), projects of water protection zones and coastal strips (including setting boundaries).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary of main objectives

- Establish a mechanism to harmonise practices and share information and communication with practitioners involved in IWRM implementation at national level.

- Facilitate national technical thematic meetings to inform and mobilise the stakeholders on the challenges of IWRM.
Methodology/Steps of implementation

- Develop and maintain the project website with data and information exchange platform.
- Assess mechanism to harmonise practices and share information and communication with practitioners involved in WFD implementation at national scale.
- Develop a mechanism for national technical harmonisation of methodologies and practice with ad hoc working groups. This mechanism will allow deepening and concretising the orientations at NPD meetings as presented below.
- Consider the need to connect the Belarusian organisation to the structure of European working groups running since 2000 to work out the Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) for WFD implementation.

Figure 6.5. Proposed co-ordination mechanisms

Main activities will include the following:

- Develop web-based information exchange platform to provide different results in relation to the activities on data management and communication strategy.
- Support development of a working group structure for national harmonisation of the methodologies for IWRM and RBMP implementation.
- Support animation of working groups, including use of EU, French and other national guidance documents developed for the different implementation steps of the WFD to inspire development of the Belarusian version.
- Develop and animate a specific working group on stakeholders’ involvement and communication.
- Summarise reports on events to consolidate and harmonise practices in the different basins and list participants.

Dependencies and synergies

This is a cross-cutting issue with many synergies at national and international levels with activities 2.3.1, 2.3.2 and 2.3.6, but also with Result 1.

Activity 3.1.4. Organisation of international events including study visits to harmonise practices and share information and communication on WFD implementation, IWRM and MEAs

Summary of status

EPIRB pilot RBMPs concern Upper Dnieper for Belarus and Ukraine. With the project, new RBPMs will be supported for Pripyat basin on both sides of the border. Therefore, it will create opportunities to share experiences and to build a transboundary RBMP together.

Summary of main objectives

- Promote and support harmonised practices with neighbouring countries (especially Ukraine).

- Facilitate exchange of experience on WFD with practitioners involved in WFD implementation and/or IWRM in the six EaP countries and beyond with EU MS and Central Asia.

Under this activity, Country priorities n° 4 will also be addressed with respect to the following issues:

- Support activities and creation of transboundary basin councils (preferably jointly with Ukraine for river basins of the Dnieper and Pripyat).

Methodology/Steps of implementation

- Assess experience in bilateral working groups to harmonise practices and international agreements in co-operation with Result 1.

- Develop a mechanism for discussion of harmonisation of water bodies delineation at the border involving local practitioners and contribute to concrete cross-border co-operation and developing synergies on monitoring.

- Organise international events (study visits, workshops, trainings) to harmonise practices and share information and communication on WFD implementation, IWRM and MEAs.

- Network and develop information exchange with relevant institutions and stakeholders:
  - Support to ensure participation of basin organisations in international networks such as International Network of Basin Organisations, etc.
  - Organise and conduct twinning exchanges.
Dependencies and synergies

This activity has a strong link with Results 1 and 2 (especially 2.3.3), as well as Activities 3.1.1 and 3.1.3 (web-based information exchange platform).

6.3. Organisation and steering structure

Project registration

The registration of EUWI+ Result 1, the UNECE and OECD grant contracts, as well as Results 2 and 3, the EU Member State Consortium grant contract, in Belarus has begun, but is not complete.

Project partners understand that certified registration is a prerequisite for supply and service tenders in Belarus, and will involve taxation, such as VAT, or import tariffs.

Regional-level arrangements

Regionally, a EUWI+ Project Steering Committee, consisting of six delegations of each EaP country, representatives of the international project partners and representatives of the European Union, is to be established. Its meeting structure and functions are well defined in the Description of Action (DoA) and are not repeated here.

The assigned members of the Regional Steering Committee for Belarus are the assigned National Focal Point of the project and one additional member appointed by Belarus.

National-level arrangements

A National Executive Strategic Board has not formally been established. Its meeting structure and functions are well defined in the DoA and are not repeated here. On 1 March 2017, Minprirody created the Inter-agency Co-ordination Council on Water Resources. It is expected to perform the role of NPD Steering Committee.

Minprirody of the Republic of Belarus appointed Ms Tatiana Slizh, Head of Unit of the Use and Protection of Waters, Department of the Regulation Pressure on Atmospheric Air and Water Resources, as the National Focal Point (NFP) of Belarus responsible for EUWI+.

Expert-level structures

The Belarus and international partners have agreed to nominate lead thematic experts to streamline the co-ordination and communication of the main thematic areas of expertise for the implementation of the Action (Table 6.7).
### Table 6.7. Expert-level structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Result</th>
<th>International thematic lead expert</th>
<th>Belarus thematic lead expert</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Result 1</td>
<td>OECD and UNECE Project Managers and Thematic Experts</td>
<td>Tatiana Slizh, Elena Koryakina, Mikhail Simonyukov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R 2 Surface water monitoring</td>
<td>Robert Konecny (AT)</td>
<td>Elena Bogodiazh, head of information and analytical department for surface water monitoring, Hydromet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R 2 Groundwater monitoring</td>
<td>Andreas Scheidleder (AT)</td>
<td>Artem Avkhimovich</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R 2 Laboratories</td>
<td>Cristina Trimbacher (AT)</td>
<td>Svetlana Utochkina, Deputy Head, National Centre of Analytical Control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R 2 RBMP</td>
<td>Philippe Seguin (FR)</td>
<td>Tatiana Slizh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R 2 Data management</td>
<td>Paul Haener (FR)</td>
<td>Victoria Voronova, Dept. of Water Resource Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R 3 Communication Stakeholder involvement</td>
<td>Yunona Videnina (FR)</td>
<td>Tatiana Evdaséva, Sergei Zavyalov</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Country Representatives**

The aim and functions of Country Representatives are well defined in the DoA and are not repeated here.

The Local Representative of Result 1 in Belarus, who assists the UNECE and OECD in implementation of Result 1, is the director of the Central Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources (Alexandr Stankevich: aps_stankevich@mail.ru). The Country Representative of the EU Member State Consortium for Belarus helps implement Results 2 and 3; selection is ongoing. The tender process, subject to several steps of legal clarification, is an “extended competitive negotiated procedure” according to 3.4.2 of the PRAG. The Country Representative of the EU Member State Consortium for Belarus was expected to be contracted by the end of summer 2017.
### 6.4. Work plan and milestones for Belarus (Gantt Chart)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Result / Activity</th>
<th>Responsible</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inception report</td>
<td>Project Team</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Result 1 - Legislation Policy and institutional strengthening</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1.1.1 Needs assessment and identification of priorities in the area of support on legislative, economic, and RBM issues</td>
<td>UNECE, OECD</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.1.2 Organization of Regional Meetings and Project Steering Committee Meetings</td>
<td>UNECE, OECD</td>
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<td>1.1.3 Organization of Regional Meetings and Project Steering Committee Meetings</td>
<td>OECD</td>
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<td>1.1.4 Ad hoc support to national processes related to the adoption of lawregulations and implementation of RBMPs, national plans on harmonisation of legal and normative acts with the requirements of the WFD, IWRM and MEAs</td>
<td>OECD, UNECE</td>
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<td>1.1.4 Support to development of new Water Strategy</td>
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<td>1.1.4 Support to implementing the new Water Strategy</td>
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<td>1.1.4 Activities at basin level: Kogali Region Strategic Study</td>
<td>OECD</td>
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<td>1.1.4 Support in transboundary Neman basin</td>
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<td>1.1.4 Support in transboundary Western Dvina-Daugava basin</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Result 2 - River Basins Management Plans designed and implemented in line with the WFD principles</strong></td>
<td>UBA/IOW</td>
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<td>2.1.1 Assessment of monitoring and laboratory infrastructure, capacities and needs</td>
<td>UBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.1.2 Purchase of equipment, including hydrological and water quality monitoring stations and rehabilitation and upgrade of existing equipment and existing laboratories</td>
<td>UBA</td>
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<td>2.1.3 Technical support to laboratories for accreditation</td>
<td>UBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.2.1 Preparation of training plans and organization of hands-on trainings and training of trainers with regard to monitoring and laboratory analyses and to support laboratories for accreditation</td>
<td>UBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.3.1 Assessment of the needs and identification of priorities in implementation of the RBMPs</td>
<td>IOW/UBA</td>
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<td>2.3.2 Technical Support in the elaboration and implementation of the pilot RBMPs</td>
<td>IOW/UBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.3.3 Technical Support to the RBM institutions to tackle coordination in transboundary river basins</td>
<td>IOW</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.3.4 Carry out biological, ecological, chemicals surveys as needed to develop and implement the RBMPs, including intercalibration and transboundary activities</td>
<td>UBA</td>
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<td>2.3.5 Investigatory monitoring of water bodies at risk of high pollution or related issues</td>
<td>UBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.3.6 Development and strengthening of national databases on water related issues &amp; ensure compliance of data with SEIS principles for collection and sharing of data</td>
<td>IOW</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.3.7 Establish a system for regular monitoring of the implementation of the RBMPs programme of measures &amp; Support the use of evidence-based data for policy making and review of RBMPs programme of measures</td>
<td>IOW</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Result 3 - Lessons learnt regularly collected, shared and communicated to stakeholders</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.1 Development, regular update and implementation of a communication strategy for the project</td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.2 Organisation of exchanges in pilot projects to support public and stakeholder participation in the preparation, implementation, review and update of RBMPs developed under result 2</td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.3 Establishment of a mechanism to harmonise practices and share information and communication with practitioners involved in WFD implementation and/or IWRM in the 6 EaP countries</td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.4 Organisation of international events (IE) including study visits (SV) to harmonise practices and share information and communication on WFD implementation, IWRM and MEAs</td>
<td>IOW, IE, SV, SV</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**
- IE: International Events
- SV: Study Visits
- UNECE: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
- OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- UBA: Bundesamt für Naturschutz, Germany
- IOW: International Office for Water, UNESCO
6.5. Risks and mitigation measures

The following risks have been identified as key for Belarus for which specific mitigation measures are proposed:

Risk 1: Governments are unstable.

The project will continue building and maintaining contacts at a variety of political and administrative levels. This provides good continuity, even in the case of eventual government restructuring (recently expected in Belarus) or staff cuts.

In other EaP countries, short-term political instabilities have not significantly disturbed longer-term co-operation under the NPD. In addition, international co-operation and pressure, for example through the EU Delegation, are strong driving forces for water policy reforms and continuation of policy dialogues on this issue.

Risk 2: The newly established Inter-agency Co-ordination Council may not support comprehensive use and protection of water resources.

If this happens, Plan B will be to use the NESB meetings (see section 9.5) as a platform for policy dialogue.

Risk 3: Reliable data for robust analytical work are not available.

The project team has accumulated experience in EaP countries to make the best use of existing data, to mobilise local expertise and to refer to expert knowledge when needed. Co-ordination with other water projects will provide opportunities to share data and identify common sets of indicators in areas of mutual interest.

Risk 4: Local management and/or expert capacity, as well as absorption capacity are not sufficient to implement the Action effectively.

Lessons learned from prior activities in the target sector in the EaP countries indicate that management and expert capacity, as well as absorption capacity on national and/or local levels, can be the main bottleneck for successful and sustainable implementation of this project.

First, absorption capacity can be limited due to the low number of experts (headcount) and by their know-how and experience (knowledge).

Second, absorption capacity can be limited because of high staff turnover, with knowledgeable experts leaving their positions, organisations or the sector.

Local management and expert capacity, as well as the absorption capacities, will be a constant element of national and Regional Steering Committee meetings and the NPD process. Close
co-ordination with donors active in the water sector in Belarus will ensure timely identification of potential risks due to parallel activities in the sector. This should allow for appropriate countermeasures. Expertise by local consultants can help overcome potential bottlenecks.
Chapter 7: Georgia

This chapter was based on analysis of country-specific official data, information from previous projects, outcomes of interviews with stakeholders in Georgia and a joint prioritisation exercise. It presents background for action and cross-cutting issues, and then describes the scope of activities. The Regional Steering Committee endorsed the country-specific work plan in May 2017.

7.1. Country background and scoping of project work

Georgia is rich with water resources, but they are unevenly distributed geographically. Due to lack of proper water governance, insufficient water quantity and quality remain a problem for some rivers.

In Georgia, 57% of drinking water comes from groundwater sources and the rest is surface water. Although about 70% of the urban population is connected to the sewerage system, only 26% of their wastewater was treated in 2013. The rural population is not connected to wastewater systems and there are no wastewater data available. As a result, the wastewater discharged into the environment is insufficiently purified or not purified at all, causing pollution and health hazards. Water quality is affected by discharges of untreated municipal and industrial wastewaters, as well as by diffuse pollution from agriculture. While access to water supply and sanitation services is relatively high throughout the region, especially in urban areas, the quality of services is not always sufficient.

Table 7.1. Water resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water resources</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average annual rainfall (mm/year)</td>
<td>1,065</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total renewable water resources (10^6) m(^3)/year</td>
<td>63,330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total renewable water resources (m^3/\text{inhab/year})</td>
<td>15,832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total water withdrawal (10^6) m(^3)/year in 2005</td>
<td>1,621</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irrigation + livestock (%)</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipalities (%)</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry (%)</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Georgia faces several key water resource management challenges:

- limited or obsolete regulatory and institutional frameworks
- deficient water allocation mechanisms and flood protection management
- weak incentives for water-use efficiency and underdeveloped policy mixes
- slow adoption and implementation of River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs)
- limited water monitoring infrastructure and capacity.

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9 3\(^{rd}\) Environmental Performance Review of Georgia, UNECE, 2016.
There is a need to reform water sector policies and improve regulatory and institutional frameworks to bring them in line with the principles of integrated water resource management (IWRM). The economic aspects of water management should be addressed through the introduction/upgrade of economic instruments for water resources management. Water allocation rules and flood protection management should be further developed and incentives for water-use efficiency identified and implemented, using a mix of policy instruments.

Table 7.2. Water sector indicators and status in 2017: Georgia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall national indicators</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The pace of convergence with the EU acquis aligns with commitments. Status of harmonisation of WFD principles in Water Code/water law</td>
<td>Partially transposed; water law drafted, but not adopted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protocol on Water and Health to the Water Convention</td>
<td>Signed, but not ratified; national targets drafted, but not adopted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes</td>
<td>Not signed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inclusive platforms created/revived to support water sector reforms and stakeholder participation in water governance</td>
<td>National Policy Dialogue (NPD) serves a water co-ordination and co-operation national platform. Water co-ordination and co-operation platforms at regional/basin levels have not yet become established practice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progress towards achievement of water-related SDG 6 &quot;Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all&quot;</td>
<td>On track. No specific country indicators developed yet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation of major principles of EU water acquis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation of basin principle Practices of river basin management contribute to stabilise or decrease pressure on water resources</td>
<td>RBMPs are being developed for one out of six basins; basins are not yet delineated. Practices are expected to improve once the RBMPs begin implementation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advancement in institutional arrangements for water resources management (RBOs) and River Basin Councils</td>
<td>There are no BMOs established in Georgia yet, and water resources are still managed centrally. Article 26 of the draft water law also refers to public basin councils.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved water allocation rules and planning</td>
<td>Rules and practices need to be updated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic instruments (like appropriate tariff setting) are being applied in water management</td>
<td>Water costs recovery (including environmental and resource costs) is partial (recover of operations and maintenance costs).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Needs for capacity development and regional activities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation of representatives/officials in joint (intersectoral or transboundary) meetings, assessments, trainings, monitoring etc.</td>
<td>Yes, regularly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparedness and capacity to assess interactions and trade-offs between sectors and to identify solutions</td>
<td>Capacity needs further development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge base to support transboundary co-operation</td>
<td>Capacity needs further development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequency and coverage, representativeness and quality of monitoring</td>
<td>Needs further strengthening.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inter-agency/cross-border joint monitoring and laboratory exercises</td>
<td>Carried out, but not regularly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applied improved procedures and international standards (QA, laboratory analysis, etc.)</td>
<td>Partially.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exchange and regional harmonisation of practices</td>
<td>Needs to be improved.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Author’s own elaboration.
Support to water sector reform through the EUWI+ project

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) and associated directives encompass a large proportion of the EU water acquis, while the RBMP process provides an attractive and structured methodology based on IWRM principles. Georgia, which signed the Association Agreement with the EU in 2014, is committed to implement or to approximate to the EU water-related acquis. However, progress is a challenge as water management and governance in Georgia is under-funded. Many key technical institutions depend on support from the donor community.

Implementation of the WFD is demanding both financially and technically. It is a challenge for Georgia, which has many competing priorities to reform its economy. Different international technical assistance projects provided Georgia with support to implement the WFD more quickly, to finalise the Water Code, and to develop secondary legislation and a pilot RBMP. Co-ordination between executing ministries appears to be good and there is good knowledge of the WFD and IWRM. However, lack of an overarching national water strategy and national water allocation plan could be a serious obstacle for water sector reform. The institutional reform process has been relatively successful; the National Environment Agency now oversees most monitoring. As an emerging priority, Georgia needs to look at development of an RBMP for the middle Kura below Tbilisi where it has the most water management problems. The signing of the Association Agreement and ongoing negotiations of a bilateral agreement with Azerbaijan could create momentum.

The objective of the EUWI+ project is to support six Eastern Neighbourhood countries, including Georgia, in the water sector reforms at different stages and levels – basin, national and transboundary. Result 1 of EUWI+ will strengthen the legal and regulatory framework at all levels through support for national water legislation. Result 2 will address the review and evaluation of monitoring, support development of new RBMPs and management of data and information. Result 3 will help establish decision-making structures at the basin level.

Key stakeholders consulted during the kick-off missions

The project team has extensively assessed the implementation status across each of three result areas in the six countries, in close consultation with the beneficiaries to establish project priorities and targets. The EUWI+ national kick-off meeting in Tbilisi on 1 December 2016 presented the scope of the project and gathered reaction from a broad range of stakeholders such as representatives of ministries, agencies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and donor projects. One-on-one meetings with key stakeholders gathered information to establish a baseline and identify country needs. In January 2017, the National Focal Point of Georgia provided the EUWI+ project team with an updated list of potential priorities, which further informed the needs assessment.
Table 7.3. Institutions and organisations met during the kick-off missions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution/organisation</th>
<th>Meeting objective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection (MENRP):</td>
<td>EUWI+ organisation and implementation in Georgia, needs assessment and priorities for water sector reform. Needs assessment for river basin planning Continuation of NPD process Needs for capacity development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Environmental Policy and International Relations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Resources Management Service</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Environmental Impact Permits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Environmental Inspection</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Environmental Agency</td>
<td>EUWI+ implementation in Georgia, needs assessment and priorities for water sector reform, monitoring, needs assessment for data and information management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Environmental Pollution Monitoring, including Laboratory of Air, Water and Soil Analysis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Hydrometeorology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Geology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MENRP Partner Institutions/NGOs</td>
<td>EUWI+ implementation in Georgia, inclusive intersectoral co-operation platform, civil society involvement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Water Partnership – NWP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia’s Environmental Outlook – GEO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greentecs, LTD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REC Caucasus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These missions resulted in a comprehensive list of priorities compiled by involved national partners. Based on priorities identified during the meetings and follow-up consultations, the project team developed a matrix that properly assessed all identified needs; these priorities were turned into specific activities for a country work plan presented in the following chapter.

Overview of the inception phase findings

The project team has extensively assessed the implementation status across each of the three result areas in the six countries, in close consultation with the beneficiaries to establish project priorities and targets.

The implementing partners recognised that strengthening of water governance was a long-term task that would transcend the timeframe of a single project. Any achievement must lay down foundations for subsequent developments. All countries adopted a structured, incremental approach, building towards implementation or approximation of the WFD at the heart of their strategies. The country work plans address all elements – legal and policy development, institutional reform, capacity building, investment and implementation – in a coherent manner. No one single element over-runs another. Instead, they are linked and move forward together and in synchrony. The need for any water governance system to be affordable in the medium and long term has been of prime concern for the design. Any system also needs flexibility to adjust to ever-changing political and economic circumstances.
To help establish the legal and institutional framework, the project will do the following:

- Help establish primary legislation for implementation or approximation of the WFD and secondary legislation for its technical application.
- Help develop strategies for WFD implementation in the short to medium term based on affordability and cost effectiveness.
- Help countries meet their obligations under Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) such as the Water Convention.
- Improve capacity of the main laboratories to comply with the monitoring requirements of the WFD and to obtain enhanced accreditation at national and international level.
- Enhance capacity in ecological and biological monitoring including development of Ecological Status Classification Systems for upper and lower catchments and coastal zones.
- Strengthen monitoring systems for both surface water (SW) and groundwater (GW), and water quantity and quality.
- Increase capacity in RBMP in accordance with the WFD including in Associated Agreement countries’ maximum coverage of the first cycle of plans.
- Create mechanisms within the planning procedure for maximum integration of water sectors and uses with emphasis on the Flood, Nitrates, UWWT and Habitat directives.
- Establish institutions for elaboration and implementation of RBMP at the national and basin level.
- Establish public consultation procedure in RBM planning in pilot basins.

The project will, in the delivery of the above, help the countries move towards their selected goals and agendas in a constructive fashion and in a manner tailored to their political and economic landscapes. The specific progress/target indicators under the EUWI+ project for Georgia appear in Table 7.4.

**Table 7.4. Baseline and targets for key indicators to be addressed by EUWI+ for Georgia (progress indicators)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Baseline (2016)</th>
<th>Target/Progress (2020)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall national indicators</td>
<td>NPD serves a water co-ordination and co-operation national platform. Water co-ordination and co-operation platforms at regional/basin levels have not become an established practice yet.</td>
<td>NPD has become an established practice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inclusive platforms created/revived to support water sector reforms and stakeholder participation in water governance</td>
<td>On track. No specific country indicators developed yet.</td>
<td>Country indicators established. Ad hoc methodological support in monitoring progress towards achievement provided. Provided a regional exchange on common challenges and lessons learned.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progress made towards achievement water-related SDG 6 &quot;Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicators</td>
<td>Baseline (2016)</td>
<td>Target/Progress (2020)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic instruments (like appropriate tariff setting) are being applied in water management</td>
<td>Water costs recovery (including environmental and resource costs) is partial (recovery of operations and maintenance [O&amp;M] costs).</td>
<td>Reform implementation started towards water costs recovery (O&amp;M and capital costs recovery); the legislation has been updated.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Implementation of major principles of EU water acquis**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Development of monitoring programme in Alazani-Iori and Khrami-Debed basins in line with WFD principles</th>
<th>Review of available data and existing monitoring programme.</th>
<th>GW and SW monitoring programmes as well as hydromorphological assessment in the pilot basins of Alazani-Iori, Khrami-Debed strengthened towards WFD compliance.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring in coastal area of Chorokhi basin performed</td>
<td>Ajara coastal plan, based on an extension of the Choroki basin (EPIRB).</td>
<td>TCW monitoring programmes for the coastal strip in Ajara are strengthened towards WFD compliance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laboratories analysis (quality management, training and equipment) supported</td>
<td>The laboratories of The National Environment Agency (NEA) in Tbilisi, Batumi and Kutaisi carry out hydrochemical testing. They are not yet accredited, but on the way towards EN ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation. Only a limited number of WFD-relevant parameter are analysed.</td>
<td>Laboratories assessed. Training plan developed. Personnel in WFD-relevant monitoring methodologies, QA/QC and accreditation topics trained and training material available. Existing/new laboratory equipment/infrastructure installed. NEA laboratory in Tbilisi is prepared for international accreditation. Laboratories participated in proficiency testing schemes for selected WFD-relevant groups of parameters. Study visit to EU MS laboratories for lab personnel carried out.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WFD strengthening GW and SW monitoring network and systems towards WFD compliance.</td>
<td>NEA oversees surface and groundwater monitoring, maintenance and publication of data. Together with the laboratories in Batumi and Kutaisi these labs will be responsible for the WFD monitoring. Limited number of staff.</td>
<td>Monitoring network and systems assessed. GW and SW monitoring programme improved towards WFD principles. Biological monitoring improved towards WFD principles. SW and GW monitoring network and systems upgraded.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Needs for capacity development and regional activities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Training programme in place to strengthen national River Basin Management capacities</th>
<th>Lack of human resources for RBMP development.</th>
<th>Training programme established and implemented for newly established BMOs and basin authorities.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EPIRB pilot RBMP refined and implementation of selected measures</td>
<td>Chorokhi-Ajaristskali pilot basin RBMP was developed during EPIRB project with initial coastal water assessment and management. PoM’s implementation is delayed because of lack of funding and human resources, as well as legal constraints (the</td>
<td>Based on the assessment report findings, refined Chorokhi-Ajaristskali RBMP in line with the WFD principles (mainly regarding coastal water). At least three measures have been implemented on Chorokhi-Ajaristskali basin.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Baseline (2016)</th>
<th>Target/Progress (2020)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New pilot RBMPs in place</td>
<td>Chorokhi-Ajaristskali pilot basin RBMP is the first in Georgia.</td>
<td>Alazani-Iori RBMP and Khrami-Debed RBMP in line with the WFD principles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National guidelines established</td>
<td>EPIRB project has already prepared guidelines.</td>
<td>Updated and improved national guidelines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transboundary working groups created for the Kura basin</td>
<td>Country priorities about transboundary RBMP planning process with Armenia and</td>
<td>Governance implemented (working group, thematic groups), at least two annual meetings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Azerbaijan.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of automated processing from water data producers to feed</td>
<td>Country priority to develop Water Information System.</td>
<td>Recommendations report about strengthening data management, support to data management and valorisation (web service, process of data valorisation).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the water information system, with valorisation of data online</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procedure and tool for evaluating implementation progress for programme</td>
<td>PoM implementation is delayed because of lack of funding and human resources.</td>
<td>Dashboard or other tool; procedure guidelines; PoM draft implementation report.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>programme of measures (PoM)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Lessons learned are regularly collected, shared and communicated to stakeholders

| Communication strategy is in place at basin, national and regional scale | Communication strategies have been developed in the EPIRB project pilot basins and partially implemented. There is no established communication strategy or campaigns at national scale on RBMP implementation. | Communication strategy developed, including consistent tested actions at different scales to support NPD and RBM planning implementation. Mechanism for sharing information and communication between Result 1 and Result 2 established (e.g. web-based information exchange platform). |
| Evidence of use of communication tools developed and implemented         | Communication tools have been developed in the EPIRB project pilot basins and partially implemented. | Basin- and country-wide implementation of communication tools (awareness-raising events, information materials, websites, press releases, social media, E-learning, workshops) at basin, national and regional scale. |
| Number and audience of targeted communication actions in line with the  | The prevailing situation in 2017 in the water sector as investigated during the early implementation phase. | Significant increase of the number of targeted communication actions and audience for stakeholders’ involvement and public awareness raising on sound water resources management by the end of the project. |
| strategy implemented                                                      |                                                                                   |                                                                                      |
| Number of national institutions and organisations using IWRM knowledge   | There are few forums for delivery of lessons learned at the national level and none at the basin level – the NPDs being an obvious example. Lessons learned are communicated, but not in a consistent and targeted manner. | Appropriate mechanisms developed to efficiently share lessons learned among main interested parties and stakeholders to harmonise positions on strategic documents (RBMP, thematic and sectoral plans, methodologies, regulation). Significant increase of ownership of strategic documents derived from water-related EU acquis, IWRM and MEAs by the end of the project. |
| and lessons learned generated for research, planning and policy making   |                                                                                   |                                                                                      |
**Indicators**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evidence of establishment of stakeholder participation mechanisms at basin, national and international levels</th>
<th>Baseline (2016)</th>
<th>Target/Progress (2020)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Key institutional stakeholders in the basin are being invited for discussions at each key stage of basin plan development, under the EPIRB project. Public participation and involvement remain limited.</td>
<td>Development of practices and progressive institutionalisation of stakeholder involvement mechanisms. Sustainable consensus building mechanisms in place at the end of the project to harmonise positions on strategic documents among main interested parties and stakeholders at the three main scales will be worked out in the communication strategy.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Author’s own elaboration.*

**Institutional development and sustainability**

The Action EUWI+ is built on lessons learned from several development initiatives of the European Union in water sector in Georgia, primarily EUWI EECCA and EPIRB. As a key strategic element, EUWI+ helps Georgia develop its relevant institutions towards sustainable structures for WFD-compliant management of its water resources.

Georgia has restructured its water sector governance in the MoENRP. Further restructuring of relevant institutions is expected after Parliament adopts the new Water Code. In addition, fluctuation of experts should not be underestimated in the Georgian water sector, due to several factors, such as low salaries in state institutions. The level of available water-specific human resources in Georgia is considered very low. Therefore, capacity building will have to start at a very low base of know-how and experience.

The project partners have agreed to focus on development of institutional sustainability in Georgia’s water sector institutions. They will strive to ensure Georgia’s institutions meet the country’s obligations of the Association Agreement. As a starting point, project partners agreed to establish a strategic group of two experts in the MoENRP to manage the processes of RBMPlanning in Georgia.

**7.2. Specific activities**

**Activity 1.1.1. Needs assessment and identification of priorities in the area of support on legislative, economic and RBM issues**

**Summary of status**

Georgia signed the Association Agreement (AA) with the EU in 2014. By May 2015, it had prepared the roadmap and action plan for implementation of environmental chapters of AA. Needs assessment and identification of priorities were aimed at ensuring that all relevant activities of the EUWI+ project support implementation of the action plan and achievement of other relevant country targets.

Face-to-face meetings with a broad range of national stakeholders and a follow-up exchange identified country priorities related to legislative, economic and RBM issues. Dedicated sessions at
the 19-20 September 2016 joint high-level event of EPIRB and EUWI+ projects in Kyiv, Ukraine collected initial suggestions for country priorities. The delegation of Georgia presented a brief overview of challenges in water resources management and outlined initial priority areas to be discussed in more detail during the inception phase of the EUWI+ project.

The EUWI+ national kick-off meeting in Tbilisi on 1 December 2016 presented the scope of the project and gathered reaction from a broad range of stakeholders such as representatives of ministries, agencies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and donor projects. One-on-one meetings with key stakeholders gathered information to establish a baseline and identify country needs. In January 2017, the National Focal Point of Georgia provided the EUWI+ project team with an updated list of potential priority activities that further informed the needs assessment.

**Objectives and deliverables**

Regional and national work plans for the duration of the project will be developed prior to the EUWI+ Steering Committee meeting for discussion and endorsement by its members. These will outline key milestones and target per area of work i.e. NPD, legislative and regulatory issues, etc. National plans will be presented and adopted at the NPD meetings.

**Methodology/Steps of implementation**

To avoid overlap, the country Roadmap will not be separately produced from the country chapter of the Inception Report. All features of the Roadmap are provided in the country Gantt chart and in the matrix that analyses country priorities.

**Responsibilities and required inputs**

The work plan and milestones (Gantt Chart) provide a related overview at the end of this country chapter.

**Dependencies and synergies**

It is expected that the EUWI+ project will consistently seek synergies with other international initiatives and projects, e.g. UNDP-GEF Kura-2, SEIS II, EMBLAS II.

**Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks**

All needs identified during the inception phase could not be implemented fully due to limited resources. Therefore, the country was asked to make priorities so the project could implement the most urgent needs.
Activity 1.1.2. Organisation of NPD meetings and review of progress

Summary of status

EUWI National Policy Dialogues began in Georgia in 2011. In 2011-16, four high-level NPD Steering Committee meetings were held to co-ordinate development of national water policy reforms. NPD continues to be multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral. The NPD Steering Committee was chaired by a deputy minister of environment of Georgia. To ensure an inclusive approach to discussions related to policies and legal aspects of water management, participants from civil society organisations (CSOs), parliamentarians, private sector and academia are regularly invited to participate in the NPDs.

Summary of main objectives

In Georgia, NPD be the EUWI + implementation mechanism. The EUWI + implementing partners will report to the NPD Co-ordination Committee meetings on their respective plans and activities in this country, including on RBMPs. The NPD meetings will support monitoring of the respective national work plans.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

Under the EUWI+ project, the OECD and UNECE will organise at least one NPD meeting each year. Agendas of NPD meetings will be prepared according to priorities identified in the country work plan. Summary records of each NPD meeting highlighting challenges, conclusions, next steps and responsibilities will be prepared. The first such meeting was held in Tbilisi on 11 April 2017 to discuss national priorities and the work plan under the EUWI+ project.

Dependencies and synergies

The EUWI+ project will depend on the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia, which was to co-chair NPD meetings and ensure participation of other relevant national stakeholders from ministries and agencies.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

National stakeholders are believed interested in attending regular NPD meetings to harmonise water policy. The EU Association Agreement provides a concrete framework, and NPD meetings may have a clearer role to play.

Activity 1.1.3. Organisation of regional meetings and Project Steering Committee meetings

Summary of status

The EUWI+ project inception phase started in September 2016. To set the scene and to inform all key beneficiaries from six countries, a joint high-level event of EPIRB and EUWI+ projects was organised...
in Kyiv, Ukraine on 19-20 September 2016. Delegations from all six partner countries attended, including many deputy ministers.

Summary of main objectives

Annual regional EUWI meetings on specific topics will enable key stakeholders from six countries to exchange experiences and lessons learned, and address transboundary issues. The regional work plan was to be adopted at its first meeting. Discussion at regional meetings will identify actions and next steps for achievement of the agreed results highlighted in the work plan.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

At least two government representatives from Georgia were to be invited to the first regional EUWI+ Steering Committee taking place on 15-16 May 2017 in Brussels. One of the main decisions expected was approval of the current Inception Report with national work plans. Relevant meeting materials and communication information in English and Russian will be produced for each meeting. The next regional EUWI+ Steering Committee meeting was expected in spring 2018 where national work plans could be adjusted if necessary.

Dependencies and synergies

Success of regional meetings depends on availability of representatives of all six countries to participate and be prepared for discussions and decisions.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

Chairs of national NPD Steering Committees (normally deputy ministers) would attend regional EUWI+ Steering Committee meetings. Finding a time suitable to all may be a challenge and bottleneck. Suitable replacements should be identified to attend when required.

Activity 1.1.4. Ad hoc support to national processes related to the adoption of law/regulations and implementation of RBMPs, national plans on harmonisation of legal and normative acts with the requirements of the WFD, IWRM and MEAs

Summary of status

The Water Law of 1997 provided principles of water policy. The law has been amended several times, but is outdated. Under the NPD process, the UNECE has helped Georgia develop a new water law that would modernise the approach to water resources management; the law is still not adopted. In 2014-16, the UNECE and EPIRB project also helped draft eight bylaws to implement the new law. Georgia signed the Association Agreement (AA) with EU in 2014. By May 2015, it had prepared the roadmap and action plan for implementation of environmental chapters of AA. Water quality and resource management form one chapter in the action plan. All relevant activities of the EUWI+ project will be conducted in the framework of the action plan.
**Summary of main objectives**

The inception phase of EUWI+ identified many policy issues requiring assistance from the international community/donors. After consultations with different stakeholders, Georgia proposed ten priority actions under Result 1, some of which EUWI+ will implement (see Annex C for full list of proposals). Such actions can be grouped into the following areas:

- harmonisation of legislation in accordance to EU Association Agreement
- development of National Water Strategy
- further support for transboundary co-operation
- implementation of MEAs.

**Methodology/Steps of implementation**

To implement the above-mentioned broader objectives, the following steps will be taken:

- Develop the National Water Strategy (NWS) [priority #1].
- Develop a concept, or normative document defining institutional model for RBM structure, possibly by (re) establishing regional units of the MENRP based on major watersheds/basin districts. As the concept relates to defining an institutional model for RBM structure at the national level, the OECD could share with member countries for review. Based on the review, a corresponding chapter will be developed in the NWS on the acceptable model for Georgia.
- Harmonise the draft water law with the recently adopted environmental impact assessment code and series of draft laws (covering issues of environmental liability, licences and permits, IPPC and mineral resources), in accordance with EU legislation and international standards [priority #2].
- Draft a bylaw on economic instruments for water resources management [priority #6].
- Revise developed draft normative act “On water quality ecological standards” [priority #8].
- Finalise agreement on Kura River with Azerbaijan and assist with selected aspects of implementation in close co-ordination with UNDP-GEF Kura-2 project [partially covered by priority #12].
- Prepare and start negotiation on bilateral agreement with Armenia on transboundary co-operation in Debed-Khrami basin (potentially starts from joint basin assessment, including hydropower, nexus) [priority #5, also linked to priority #11 and Armenian priorities #2, #5, #6].
- Support process of ratification of the UNECE-WHO/Europe Protocol on Water and Health by preparing if necessary the initial assessment and/or roadmap and finalise national targets under the Protocol [priority #3].

**Dependencies and synergies**

Finalisation of agreement on Kura River with Azerbaijan and assistance with selected aspects of implementation will be co-ordinated with a new UNDP/GEF project and linked to development of monitoring scheme under the EUWI+Result 2.
Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

The water resources division in the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection is understaffed to perform activities needed to implement WFD requirement (especially on basin management). Success of many planned activities therefore depends on commitments and availability of needed human capacity at governmental level.

Activity 1.2.1. Needs assessment and identification of priorities in the area of capacity development

Summary of status

Recent technical assistance projects have expanded the human and technical capacity of community actors within the water sector. This presents an opportunity to bring this expertise together and strengthen it further.

Summary of main objectives

Potential priorities for capacity development have been identified based on the needs assessment. These will help achieve long-term sustainability of the EUWI+ results and more efficient decision making in the water sector.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

Face-to-face meetings with a broad range of national stakeholders and follow-up exchanges identified priorities in capacity development.

The EUWI+ national kick-off meeting in Tbilisi on 1 December 2016 presented the scope of the project and gathered reaction from a broad range of stakeholders such as representatives of ministries, agencies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and donor projects. One-on-one meetings with key stakeholders followed to gather information for a baseline and to identify country needs.

With a general move towards regionalisation, more trainings at basin/regional level may be needed than at national/central government level. Several countries of the region, including Georgia, identified these priority areas:

- Provision of training on development and application of water allocation plans for national levels. The OECD could deliver a regional training on approaches to develop national water allocation priorities and rules, as well on their application when developing water allocation plans at the basin level.
- Training to strengthen monitoring of the implementation of Protocol on Water and Health to the UNECE Water Convention.
- Training to strengthen monitoring of the progress with water-related SDGs.
- Capacity development events to strengthen the knowledge base for co-operative water management.
Dependencies and synergies

The EUWI+ project will consistently seek synergies with other international initiatives and projects, providing training and capacity development assistance.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

Identification and availability of key staff to attend trainings: the number of people dealing with water management is limited and they are often overloaded with daily tasks.

Activity 1.2.2. Organisation of trainings

Summary of status

Established academic institutions and vocational training centres are providing courses/trainings on issues related to water resources management. In addition, Georgia has a diverse donor community and many international projects have been providing trainings for water managers over many years. While training opportunities are often not lacking, the water sector has limited human resources. Therefore, any training needs to be well planned and targeted. With no regional/basin structures in place yet for water resources management, many capacity building activities are to take place in later stages of the EUWI+ project.

Summary of main objectives

To ensure long-term sustainability of project results in local capacity development, some trainings will be implemented in partnership with distinguished local training institutions (universities, research institutes, well-established water NGOs, etc.). Part A presents a regional training plan based on the needs assessment.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

Implementation will include strengthening preparedness and capacity to assess interactions and trade-offs between sectors and to identify solutions. This will require training and awareness on issues including allocation planning and the use of economic instruments. The knowledge base to support transboundary co-operation needs further strengthening with awareness of the benefits of sharing and efficient water allocation key features. In addition, need may arise to bring certain key national experts/officials to specific trainings or workshops organised by project partners outside Georgia.

Dependencies and synergies

The UNDP-GEF Kura-2 project can likely conduct some of the planned trainings or carry them out jointly with the EUWI+ project. Several regional trainings could inform further development of a national water policy. Georgia could benefit from regional training activities in conjunction with the other five EaP countries.
Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

Core capacity building needs are linked with implementation of the basin management principle. Since the water management structure is centralised (except for the Autonomous Republic of Adjara), trainings depend on creation of regional/basin institutions.

Activity 2.1.1. Assessment of monitoring and laboratory infrastructure, capacities and needs

Summary of status

The National Environment Agency (NEA) oversees surface and groundwater monitoring, maintenance and publication of data. Together with the laboratories in Batumi and Kutaisi, these labs will monitor the WFD.

State monitoring of groundwater in Georgia stopped in 1992. Within a Czech-supported project and EPIRB, several boreholes and springs were reactivated for monitoring. Today, 40 sites are sampled twice per year (mainly located in Alazani and Chorokhi basin).

There are five main artesian basins with many unmonitored artesian wells and with uncontrolled water discharge.

The Environmental Pollution department monitors surface water monitoring with 35 people for the whole country (with branches and labs). It covers 74 rivers, 174 monitoring points and 12 lakes and reservoirs. Monitoring plans are developed annually laying down the sites, frequencies and parameters.

Monitoring should also cover polluted/industrial areas.

Quantity monitoring is institutionally separated and covers 55 sites (44 fully automated). Transboundary activities are prioritised.

Hydromorphological assessment is under the responsibility of NEA, but only in the frame of projects.

A road map for monitoring national implementation according to WFD is requested.

One expert conducts biological monitoring in Tbilisi (only macroinvertebrates). In Batumi, there are two departments of the National Environment Agency, the fisheries and Black Sea monitoring service, and the chemical lab. The biological staff of the former fisheries institute can analyse both freshwater and marine biology. Fish sampling is possible with authorisation and big and small electro fishery equipment is available. However, the biologists need equipment and training for all biological indicators of the WFD.

Batumi coastal plan based on an extension of the Choroki basin (EPIRB) is available.
Water analyses are undertaken by three central laboratories of NEA in Kutaisi (western-GE, Enguri-Rioni basin), in Tbilisi (Mtkvari [Kura], Khrami-Debed and Alazani-Iori basins) and in Batumi (Black Sea, Chorokhi-Kintrishi basin). In 2017, new laboratory premises were to be built in Tbilisi and Batumi. New equipment from Japan’s non-project Grant Aid for provision of Japanese SMEs’ Products (FY2013) for Georgia is available, but training was not appropriate.

Summary of main objectives

- Identify gaps between the laboratory and monitoring situation in the Alazani-Iori and the Khrami-Debed basin against the needs of the WFD.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

- Jointly evaluate available strategies, methodologies, procedures and guidance for monitoring and laboratory analysis, considering also the EPIRB achievements.
- Jointly assess GW, SW and TCW monitoring in the Alazani-Iori and the Khrami-Debed basin and in the coastal area near Batumi (e.g. network design, sampling, parameters) in close relation to the outcome under Activity 2.3.1 concerning typology, water bodies and pressures.
- Visit and assess in depth each selected laboratory considering staff capacities, infrastructure, testing and sampling methods, equipment, status of accreditation and training needs.

Dependencies and synergies

- Potential synergies with the UNDP project on the Kura RB (together with Azerbaijan), which is in the development phase. Monitoring devices are procured. A NO project focuses on hydropower potential and respective maps are available. For the modelling of the Rioni River, 35 meteorological stations were installed.
- A UNDP project on the Rioni focuses on flood management, but it is not clear how closely it is aligned to the Flood Directive.
- Potential synergies with EMBLAS project (www.emblasproject.org; Improving Environmental Monitoring in the Black Sea) in terms of common laboratories. Linked through the Institute in Batumi.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

- Sustainable implementation of new methods and equipment needs a corresponding legal basis for the monitoring of the addressed substances.
- Long-term assignment of respective staff is a precondition to the purchase of specific equipment and provision of training.
Activity 2.1.2. Purchase of equipment, including hydrological and water quality monitoring stations and rehabilitation and upgrade of existing equipment and existing laboratories

Summary of status

Water monitoring programmes need strengthening. Some GW, SW and TCW monitoring is operational, but not fully WFD-compliant. Also, the analytical capacity is not fully WFD-compliant, particularly regarding hazardous substances. Some equipment needs modernisation and equipment for proper monitoring is also needed.

Summary of main objectives

- Implement upgrade and development plan for monitoring and laboratories, including:
  - Jointly agreed list of monitoring and laboratory infrastructure, practical equipment and consumables needed and ranked according to priority in enabling the achievement of identified objectives under Activities 2.1.3, 2.3.2 and 2.3.4. This is relevant to further achieve compliance with the WFD and its daughter directive requirements for tendering and purchase under Activity 2.1.2.
  - Description of staff capacities, including job specifications needed for sustainable operation of monitoring and each selected laboratory, considering available and newly purchased equipment and new methods. Identification of additional staff needed will be addressed under Result 1.
  - Amendments needed in terms of procedures and training of staff, considering available and newly purchased equipment and new methods. The identified needs will be addressed in the form of trainings under Activity 2.2.1.
- Deliver, install and hand over appropriate equipment, infrastructure and consumables as agreed in the upgrade and development plan.
- Assure analytical service by fulfilling requirements of ISO/IEC 17025 in terms of availability of both maintained equipment and necessary infrastructure.
- Train staff and issue training certificates by the manufacturer (where applicable).
- Enhance analytical capabilities and data availability for decision makers and stakeholders over the long term.
- Strengthen GW, SW and TCW, monitoring programmes, and hydromorphological assessment in the pilot basins of Alazani-Iori, Khrami-Debed and the coastal strip around Batumi towards WFD compliance.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

- Identify any relevant national procedures, such as customs clearance and procurement of equipment in full compliance with the legal requirements and rules applicable to this contract.
- Jointly elaborate tender dossier for the agreed list of infrastructure, equipment and consumables and submission to the official journal.
- Evaluate and document bids, identify best offer, assign and contract.
- Rehabilitate, upgrade and enhance monitoring sites, equipment and laboratories following the respective upgrade and development plans.
- Install monitoring sites and equipment and train staff on the equipment.

**Dependencies and synergies**

- UNDP project on the Kura RB (together with AZ) is in development. Monitoring devices are procured, including hydrometeorological equipment. There is a need to co-ordinate Alazani and Iori and an assessment of the Kura downstream of Tbilisi.
- Consider potential synergies with EMBLAS project (www.emblasproject.org; Improving Environmental Monitoring in the Black Sea). Linked through the Institute in Batumi.
- SlovakAid project “Harmonization of Analytical Methods used in the National Environmental Agency of Georgia with the Requirements of the Water Framework Directive 2013/39/EU” (01.01.2017- 31.05.2018). The main goals and deliverables of the project are: Outcome 1. Trained personnel of NEA on WFD requirements, fundamentals of sample treatment methods used in monitoring of WFD pollutants and validation approaches; Outcome 2. Installation of analytical methods and protocols for determination of the selected WFD pollutants at NEA (Project manager is Prof. Ivan Spanik, ivan.spanik@stuba.sk).

**Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks**

- The project must ensure that technical specifications are not tailored to a specific product; free and independent procurement must be safeguarded.
- Sustainability of investments in equipment depends on long-term coverage of financial means for maintenance and consumables.

**Activity 2.1.3. Technical support to laboratories for accreditation**

**Summary of status**

The lab of the supervising division is accredited for pH and heavy metal analysis. The national accreditation body was soon to be part of the ISO 17025. A distributed questionnaire provides a first indication of accredited methodologies in approached laboratories.

The detailed planning of this activity depends on the outcome of Activity 2.1.1. Laboratories’ compliance with the technical and management requirements of the international standard EN ISO/IEC 17025 (general requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories) were to be assessed in depth as basis for further support towards accreditation.

The level of support also depends on available equipment and those which are purchased/upgraded/refurbished under Activity 2.1.2.

**Summary of main objectives**

- Begin process for accrediting NEA Labs in Tbilisi, Batumi and Kutaisi for defined methodologies.
- Ensure pre-audit assessment report reveals the degree of compliance with requirements of the ISO/IEC 17025 standard.
- Conduct study visits.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

- Clarify accreditation procedure, costs and timeline with the national accreditation body.
- Develop and validate method for selected priority substances.
- Review and update of QM-documentation.
- Tailor technical trainings and trainings of selected management aspects, e.g. audit seminar for QA staff executed under Activity 2.2.1.
- Participate in proficiency testing schemes in water analysis for selected groups of parameters as external quality control measure to prove the performance of the involved laboratories.
- Conduct study visit to selected laboratories and administrative bodies of the consortium partners to demonstrate all aspects of accreditation and their implications in routine day-to-day practice.
- Undertake a pre-audit assessment to reveal degree of compliance with requirements of the ISO/IEC 17025 standard.

Dependencies and synergies

The detailed planning of this activity depends on the outcome of Activities 2.1.1 and 2.1.2. Potential synergies exist with EMBLAS project.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

- Provision of technical support depends on the equipment, which is available and purchased under Activity 2.1.2, which brings up the issue of whether investments are sustainable.
- Laboratory staff need to be available and motivated to actively continue the required working steps between the missions in a partly independent manner.
- Training on methodologies for analysing certain parameters needs a corresponding legal basis for the monitoring the addressed substances.

Activity 2.2.1. Preparation of training plans and organisation of hands-on trainings and training of trainers with regard to monitoring and laboratory analyses and to support laboratories for accreditation

Summary of status

Though the relevant and responsible experts in the administrative bodies (NEA, etc.) were involved in implementing the EPIRB project, national contracted experts commonly did the work. The national administration has limited capacity on its own to accomplish or extend the WFD implementation to further river basins.
Summary of main objectives

- Create a critical mass of qualified staff who can continue independently to develop and maintain water monitoring and laboratory analysis in line with the WFD requirements.
- Ensure qualified staff can further train national experts and increase their mass and capacity.
- Base training plans on upgrade and development plans defined under Activity 2.1.1.
- Ensure training documents are available and fit for use after the project ends.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

Administrative bodies need capacity building to ensure sustainability. Based on the status and achievements in the EPIRB pilot of the Chorokhi-Adjaristskali basin, the trainings will review and potentially update the RBMPs. They will be expanded to the new pilot of the Alazani-lori and the Khrami-Debed basin to support development of the RBMPs. Training considers all WFD-relevant aspects of GW, SW, quantitative, chemical, hydromorphological and biological monitoring.

- Jointly develop training plans, competence profiles and training targets derived from needs identified under Activities 2.1.1, 2.1.3 and 2.3.1 and the upgrade and development plans defined under Activity 2.1.2. The plans compile and co-ordinate the single training aspects throughout the project and were to be adopted according to progress and needs identified throughout this phase.
- Revise and prepare corresponding training material.
- Provide intensive hands-on training for administrative bodies responsible for WFD implementation on:
  - monitoring design (including network, parameters, frequency, etc.) and management
  - sampling of quantitative, chemical and biological indicators and assessment of hydromorphology in close connection with Activities 2.3.4 and 2.3.5
  - use, calibration, maintenance of equipment and infrastructure for sampling, monitoring and laboratory analyses
  - evaluation of monitoring results and link to RBMPs
  - exchange of experience and trainings for selected topics of the EN ISO/IEC 17025 standard for laboratory accreditation
  - training of trainers for all aspects
  - preparation of strategies, road maps, guidance and templates.

Dependencies and synergies

- If needed, junior experts could be recruited and competencies and skills strengthened during the project.
Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

- Administrative staff must be available and motivated to attend the trainings and implement the required working steps between the training sessions in a partly independent manner.
- Capacities and national funds, and logistics must be sufficient.
- Long-term assignment of respective staff is a precondition to sustainability of capacities.

Activity 2.3.1. Assessment of the needs and identification of priorities in implementation of the RBMPs

Summary of status

The first EU WFD-compliant River Basin Management Plan in Georgia is a result of intensive works and wide public consultations in the Chorokhi-Ajaristskali pilot basin during the EPIRB project.

The technical elements of RBMP elaboration have been developed and implemented in the Chorokhi pilot basin under EPIRB for SW, GW and partly TCW (water bodies are delineated). Water body delineation and classification are not the responsibility of NEA and do not have the respective human resources. The NEA’s responsibility is monitoring only. Consultants and NGOs do the work with minimal ministry involvement.

Summary of main objectives

- Evaluate the EPIRB Chorokhi-Ajaristskali RBMP for consistency with the WFD using standard EU procedures. Revise and update, if necessary, through Activity 2.3.2 mainly for coastal water. Based on the assessment, a training programme will be established and implemented.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

- Review and assess in-depth implemented methodologies and the EPIRB Chorokhi-Ajaristskali RBMP and its shortcomings, governance and identification of compliance gaps regarding the requirements of the WFD (check list).
- Consult and review to describe technical governance, staff capacities and needs.
- Assess training needs and prepare a programme that will focus on on-the-job training. The assessment identifies training needs to provide the most relevant methodological support. This includes capacity building on WFD implementation and RBMP preparation, and on-the-job training of authorities, especially the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Management, the National Environmental Agency of Georgia and responsible institutions in the basin.

Dependencies and synergies

Linked with Activity 2.3.2.
Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

Teams dedicated to tasks related to RBMP development and monitoring of implementation must be identified at an early stage of the project.

Activity 2.3.2. Technical support in the elaboration and implementation of the pilot RBMPs

Figure 7.1. The planning cycle of the EU WFD and its consecutive implementation steps

Summary of status

Georgia and the EU signed the Association Agreement in 2014, which entered into force on 1 July 2016. Georgia has committed to establish basin management units and develop RBMPs for all basin districts by 2026; according to the agreement (Annex XXVI, page 584), these provisions of the WFD (preparation of RBMPs, public consultations and publication of these plans – Articles 13 and 14) shall be implemented within ten years of the entry into force of this Agreement. Thus, this activity perfectly complements the national agenda of the EU-Georgia Association Agreement.

During the kick-off mission, two requests were presented: to develop WFD-compliant RBMPs on two new basins; and to support implementation of the Chorokhi pilot RBMP and provide capacity building in methodology and training to Ajarian Directorate on Environment and Natural Resources for basin management principles, monitoring of implementation identified by RBMP PoMs, water allocation, etc.
Different sectors are developing measures related to water management. This activity would provide an opportunity to demonstrate the feasibility of new exemplary measures derived from sectoral water-related directives or seen as key to foster effective measures.

This activity will be implemented in line with the following identified country priorities:

- Country priority n°12: Develop full-scale WFD-compliant RBMP for the Alazani-Iori basin (transboundary with Azerbaijan).
- Country priority n°13: Develop full-scale WFD-compliant RBMP for the Khrami-Debed basin (transboundary with Armenia).
- Country priority n°15: Support implementation of PoM of the Chorokhi-Ajaristskali RBMP.

**Summary of main objectives**

- Refine existing RBMP and support development of the full-scale Coastal Management Plan of the Chorokhi-Ajaristskali basin.
- Identify the necessary conditions for implementation of key measures in the Chorokhi-Ajaristskali RBMP and draw some recommendations applicable to the other RBMPs.
- Support development of Alazani-Iori RBMP and Khrami-Debed RBMP compliant with the EU-WFD.
- Elaborate national guidelines associated with the RBMP process, tailored to the needs of Georgia.

A critical mass of qualified staff would be necessary to continue development of the technical elements of RBMP, as well as revision and update according to the six-year cycle of WFD.

**Figure 7.2. River basins in Georgia**
Methodology/Steps of implementation

Refinement of EPIRB pilot RBMP

- Revise technical elements of the EPIRB pilot RBMP, and support through on-the-job trainings in light of the outcomes of Activity 2.3.1.

- Report and realise some non-WFD compliant elements e.g. public consultation under Result 3.
  - Update technical elements in Chorokhi-Ajaristskali RBMP, particularly shift of SWB delineation to WFD system B and monitoring design.

- Support, through the MS expert team, development for coastal strip management in the Chorokhi-Ajaristskali Basin from Coastal Monitoring Assessment (water body delineation, characterisation, monitoring and assessment) and RBMP adaptation.

Implementation of EPIRB pilot RBMP

- Select priority pilot measures from the PoM for implementation in line with national priorities, using a participative approach in the spirit of the WFD and in co-ordination with communication activities (Result 3 in particular).

- Select “soft measures”, in collaboration with competent authorities, from supplementary measures out of the EPIRB-PoM developed for Chorokhi-Ajaristkali River Basin. MS experts’ team will support their implementation. Possible examples of measures:
  6. Investigation works for elimination of historical pollution of Korolistskali and Bartsnkhana rivers (downstream of the river).

The link with sectoral plans will be an important way to demonstrate the necessary co-ordination and integration for water resources management.

The MS experts’ team would support competent authorities and project owners to implement the selected measures, through its experience in project management, preparation of studies and terms of references, implementation plans, mobilisation of funds, etc.

Development of River Basin Management Plans for Alazani-lori basin and for Khrami-Debed basin

- Give maximum support first to development of RBMP for Alazani-lori basin, and then for Khrami-Debed basin.
- Ensure technical elements of RBMP cover SW and GW body delineation, SWB typology characterisation, pressures and impact assessment, monitoring network design, monitoring and risk and status assessment (chemistry, biology and quantity). This part will be led by UBA.

- Ensure strategic elements of RBMP cover identification of the significant water management issues, establishment of environmental objectives, economic analysis, establishment of the programmes of measures (PoM), public consultation, etc. This part will be led by OIEau.

- Support competent authorities through intensive hands-on training and workshops, and training for trainers.

- Develop several chapters of the RBMP under tendered contract with national partners and consultants approved by the beneficiary. The winning contractor will work closely with the planning unit of the beneficiary organisation in accordance with the detailed terms of reference. The MS expert team will provide technical and strategic support to both the contractor and the beneficiary in developing a compliant plan.

The approaches used will be in line with the EU WFD, new water legislation (to be adopted soon) and the EU-Georgia Association Agreement, with the participation of local stakeholders, main beneficiary institutions (Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, National Environmental Agency) NGOs, academic institutions, local municipalities, etc.).

RBMP development will proceed roughly according to the following steps and topics for intensive hands-on-training:

- Setting up governance for preparation of RBMP, organise regular co-ordination and consultation meetings with main stakeholders and the wider public to facilitate further implementation of RBMP.
- Identifying of the significant water management issues for the RBMP planning cycle.
- Conducting river basin characterisation (WFD article 5) including: surface water and groundwater bodies delineation and typology, pressures assessment (domestic, industrial and agricultural) and impact analysis, protected areas delineation (drinking water protected areas, sensitive areas regarding urban waste water, vulnerable zones towards nitrates from agriculture sources, specific zones for habitats, etc.), baseline and prospective scenarios to integrate the trend of the main pressures, economic analysis (water use, cost recovery - WFD article 9), risk analysis.
- Designing monitoring programme (surveillance and operational) and network (WFD article 8), establish a compliance regime for assessing water bodies status, assess water status (surface water and groundwater; biological, chemical and quantitative data).
- Setting up environmental objectives (WFD article 4) for water bodies and protected areas.
- Implementing PoM to ensure achievement of environmental objectives (WFD, article 11).
- Finalising RBMP (WFD article 13).
- Holding public consultations in line with the WFD (see Result 3).
Elaboration of national guidelines

The MS experts’ team will develop national guidance documents in line with the WFD and associated directives. If necessary and in addition to EPIRB guidelines produced, the national guidelines will include specific examples gained from pilot basin experiences and be adapted to country specificities. The guidelines will contain a portfolio of priority action cards to guide the different steps of planning and implementation. A road map of technical RBMP elements will be helpful for country-wide implementation.

Dependencies and synergies

Developing this activity, the MS experts’ team will carefully ensure co-ordination and promote synergies with other activities and projects:

- From Chorokhi-Ajaristskali RBMP, a strong link with Activity 2.3.1 (RBMP review); some measures in the field of regulatory and governance are linked with Result 1, in the field of monitoring with Result 2.2 and in the field of data management with Result 2.3.6. There is also a link with the dashboard from Activity 2.3.7.
- Development of the Alazani-Iori and Khrami-Debed RBMPs is linked with Results 2.2. (monitoring results), 2.3.3 (transboundary RBMP process), 3 (stakeholders’ involvement) and strategies developed in other EaP countries, MS countries and in other sectoral planning documents of Georgia.
- Other international projects (UNDP GEF Kura II Project).

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

Input from local consultants will be defined after mobilisation of competencies and knowledge of Georgian institutions. This input will be optimised based on budget constraint.

This activity will be a concrete exercise to organise communication between different stakeholders and other projects developed in Georgia.

Sustainable progress and development of the plans will depend on the implication of the Georgian authorities to build capacity and ownership of the results.

Activity 2.3.3. Technical support to the RBM institutions to tackle co-ordination in transboundary river basins

Summary of status

During the kick-off mission, transboundary assessment was considered important. This activity will be aligned with the following identified country priorities:

- Country priority n°12: Develop full-scale WFD-compliant RBMP for the Alazani-Iori basin (transboundary with Azerbaijan).
- Country priority n°13: Develop full-scale WFD-compliant RBMP for the Khrami-Debed basin (transboundary with Armenia).

Summary of main objectives

Transboundary basins chosen to develop RBMPs are a priority. Competent authorities in charge of RBMP planning must be able to implement a harmonised transboundary planning process to do the following:

- Consider the proper scale for river basin management – the river basin – even if transboundary basins may be more complex to manage than river basins exclusively within the national borders.
- Have a coherent approach and develop synergies with riparian countries for the planning process, particularly for sharing objectives and for defining the PoM.
- Take advantage and valorise the respective countries' experiences regarding RBMP and implementation of the WFD to capitalise on experience more effectively.
- Promote broader co-ordination and trust between the riparian countries sharing river basins.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

To support the competent authority and line agencies to tackle co-ordination for transboundary river basin management, the MS experts’ team will do the following:

- Assess RBMP development on both sides of the border.
- Strengthen cross-boundary working groups and conduct transboundary meetings to harmonise the planning process.
- Support thematic working groups to consider transboundary aspects for different steps of the planning process with a focus on water bodies delineation and monitoring, and environmental objectives.

Transboundary process needs the setting-up of governance to organise regular co-ordination and consultation meetings for the main steps of the RBMP development:

- Set up a restricted co-ordination group, made of representatives from basin organisations, regional administration and local institutions in charge of different aspects of water management and monitoring. It will oversee orientation, validation of the action plan and documentation of follow-up.
- Set up a large audience consultation group made of stakeholders. After each significant phase is complete, the co-ordination group will invite stakeholders to meet.

The development of several chapters will rely upon local expertise as needed to support the basin organisations. This local expertise will be complemented by international expertise and trainings.

The project will continue to support bilateral co-operation with Azerbaijan and prepare ground for a transboundary assessment of the Kura River downstream of Tbilisi, towards the Georgian-Azerbaijani
border. The project will also support harmonisation of RBMPs with Armenia (Khrami-Debed) along with co-operation between the two countries.

**Dependencies and synergies**

Strong linkage with Result 1 and Activities 2.3.1 and 2.3.4.

**Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks**

The willingness of each country for cross-boundary works and sufficient availability of concerned staff will be the main bottlenecks.

Different rhythms and organisation between the countries could limit synergies.

**Activity 2.3.4. Carry out biological, ecological, chemicals surveys as needed to develop and implement the RBMPs, including intercalibration exercise and organisation of joint field surveys in transboundary rivers**

**Summary of status**

Transboundary monitoring (together with AZ and AM) is highly appreciated. The field surveys under EPIRB did not produce enough data to assess the status of the water bodies. The methodology was not applied to the Chorokhi because the final version came too late.

**Summary of main objectives**

- Contribute to comparability of data between the shared Alazani-lori (with AZ) and Khrami-Debed (with AM) river basins.
- Ensure availability of sufficient monitoring data (gap filling) to allow for review/update of the existing Chorokhi RBMP. This would be in line with the six-year review cycle under the WFD for development of the new RBMP of the Alazani-lori and Khrami-Debed basins in terms of characterisation and classification (risk and status assessment) of SWBs, GWBs and coastal water bodies. It would also align with the inter-calibration of national SW status assessment regimes under Activity 2.3.2.
- Conduct baseline study for Lake Paliastomi.
- Link biological monitoring experts from neighbouring countries.
- Assess seasonal water status (chemical and biological) of the Kura River downstream of Tbilisi.

**Methodology/Steps of implementation**

- Develop monitoring schemes of field surveys and joint transboundary field surveys.
- Execute field surveys and joint transboundary surveys in SW and GW covering chemical (also priority substances), hydromorphological and relevant biological indicators in close adjustment with Activity 2.2.1. Intensive hands-on training on:
- sampling and monitoring of quantitative, chemical and biological indicators and in the assessment of hydromorphology
- use, calibration, maintenance of equipment and infrastructure for sampling, on-site monitoring and logistics and sample treatment
- evaluation of monitoring results.
- joint development of monitoring schemes, survey manuals, organisation of the surveys, mission reports and evaluation.

Dependencies and synergies

- Synergies with Activity 2.2.1 (hands-on training) and Activity 2.1.3 (towards accreditation)

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

- Transboundary SW and GW surveys in the Alazani-Iori and and Khrami-Debed basins need mutual commitment with Azerbaijan respectively Armenia on transboundary co-operation and willingness to share information and data.
- Capacities, national funds and logistics are sufficient.
- Necessary additional equipment purchased under Activity 2.1.2 is in place.
- Focus on integration of junior staff.

Activity 2.3.5. Investigatory monitoring of water bodies at risk of high pollution or related issues

Summary of status

Monitoring of polluted/industrial areas is needed.

Summary of main objectives

- Discover reasons for unknown exceedances, the unknown reasons for risk or the causes of failure of good status, or the magnitude and impacts of accidental pollution.
- Fill gaps of monitoring results for proper review/establishment of the PoM of the RBMPs.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

- Jointly identify sites and parameters subject to investigatory monitoring, depending on results of the pressure and risk assessments under Activity 2.3.2.
- Develop monitoring schemes, survey manuals, organisation of the surveys, mission reports and evaluation of the survey and the data gathered.

Dependencies and synergies

- Results of the pressure and risk assessments under Activity 2.3.2.
**Assumptions**

- The scope very much depends on the results of the pressure and risk assessments within the RBMP elaboration under Activity 2.3.2, the selected pollution cases, the substances concerned, and the sampling and laboratory equipment available.
- Necessary additional equipment purchased under Activity 2.1.2 is in place.
- Capacities and national funds, and logistics are sufficient.

**Activity 2.3.6. Development and strengthening of national databases on water-related issues and ensure compliance of data with SEIS principles for collection and sharing of data**

**Summary of status**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Situation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legislation on data management</td>
<td>Water cadastre not mentioned in water law: only “State system of record keeping on water and water use but not defined in terms of content”. By law, regulation about administration and use of environmental data and information, including water sector, is planned by UNDP project: the EUWI+ project will have to complete this draft law to underline use of Water Information System (WIS) for RBMP.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WIS/water cadastre</td>
<td>Non-existent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data sources</td>
<td>Various data sources are managed by various organisations in various formats (.mdb, .xls and .doc).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities/synergies</td>
<td>Possibility to host a WIS server at EIEC/PNUD project that could provide IT technical staff for maintenance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Summary of main objectives

About the needs

| Initial official request | Country priority N°11: “Develop Water Cadastre Information System (WCIS), focusing on populating and testing the data on water abstraction, discharge, hydrological flow and balances, water quality, water use permits, etc., primarily for the pilot basin of Alazani-Iori, Khrami-Debed and Chorokhi-Ajaristskali, and possibly for other basins, upon data availability”.
| Complementary request of partners | MENR/WRM
- Automatise collection of data on water use.
- Develop Water Information System in link with EIEC/UNDP project.
- Reinforce links with SEIS project (identification of data gaps, better data dissemination).
- Valorise EPIRB data previously collected.
NEA/Laboratory
- Control and share their data, avoiding duplication of work (the same data are manually entered four times).
NEA /GW
- Develop BD and modelling tools.
SEIS |

Proposal of action

Developing automated processing from water data producer to feed the water information system, with valorisation of data online to facilitate the following:

- production of information for RBMP following needs
- access to data for SEIS indicator production
- better access to data and information to partners and to the public (following rights given by the initial data producers).

Methodology/Steps of implementation

Figure 7.3 summarises the global approach.
The implementation of this approach will include activities related to:

**Organisational aspects**

- support by law preparation on National Water Information system, to be used among others as a source for RBMP
- workshop on data management (exchange on situation, data flow analysis, presentation metadata production process, need analysis)
- support to develop agreements on data exchanges with partners
- support to organisation of metadata production with/by the data producers (cf. Inspire Directive)
- agreement with EIEC for hosting an online server with administration done by IOWater in a first step and then by MENR. This will require the following:
  - an online server
  - one (or two) technical administrators of the server at EIEC level
  - one (or two) co-ordinator(s) of data administration to be trained at MENR/WRM level
agreement about what can be published.

Technical aspects

- acquisition (or configuration) of a server to be installed at EIEC if agreement
- support to catalogue of metadata preparation/implementation
- support to WRM section staff for data collection form data producers
  - support to information production for RBMP
    - support for processing map and indicator production
  - support for NEA on water quality data collection and automatic processing.

Dependencies and synergies

- Activity 2.3.7. Establish a system for regular monitoring of implementation of the RBMPs’ PoM and support the use of evidence-based data for policy making and review.
- Activity 3.1.2: Organisation of exchanges in pilot projects to support public and stakeholders’ participation in the preparation, implementation, review and update of RBMPs developed under Result 2.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

Good development of these activities requires the following:

- political will to organise water data sharing between institutions
- clear sharing of responsibilities and tasks between the various organisations involved in water data production/management and valorisation
- availability of online server with possibilities to install the necessary software
- availability of staff for:
  - technical management of the information system
  - organisation of data exchange between institutions.

Activity 2.3.7. Establish a system for regular monitoring of the implementation of the RBMPs and support the use of evidence-based data for policy making

Summary of status

During the kick-off mission, the project was asked to provide capacity building in methodology and training especially to Ajarian Directorate on Environment and Natural Resources for monitoring the implementation of measures identified by the RBMP.

Summary of main objectives

- Raise awareness and providing tools to decision makers about the need for reliable indicators to assess RBMP implementation and reorient regional water policies if needed. This approach is
necessary to select the most relevant indicators related to each regional water policy and to produce the necessary corresponding data on a continuous basis.

- Build a first dashboard to monitor implementation together with the different sectors concerned. This dashboard will be useful for a progress report on implementation of the planned PoM, according to WFD article 15.

The result of this experience will be used for an iterative improvement of the PoM in future RBMPs.

It will be focused on EPIRB pilot Chorokhi-Ajaristskali Basin. The experience gained will be a reference for up-scaling a dashboard at country scale.

**Methodology/Steps of implementation**

This activity will develop indicators to monitor implementation of the PoM of the RBMPs, as well as tools to support visualisation of the monitoring results.

The implementation steps are as follows:

- Analyse in detail the PoM and categorisation/typology of measures, including the definition of responsibilities.
- Identify/develop appropriate indicators to monitor implementation of measures and validation.
- Analyse available indicators: gathering national policy papers from the different sectors and identifying measures being implemented in EPIRB pilot river basin; study the possibility to use work done on the SDGs; develop practices to use socio-economic data to extrapolate quantified information about pressures; water resources status; etc.
- Propose a procedure and responsibilities for regularly evaluating the implementation progress.
- Prepare set of data necessary for an interim report about the implementation of the PoM.

Actions will consist of trainings and desk support for settling the process of gathering indicators and linking indicators to decision making.

** Dependencies and synergies**

To optimise work on the dashboard, the activity will be closely connected to Activity 2.3.2., 2.3.4. and 2.3.6. National databases on water-related issues must be strengthened. Collection and sharing of data must comply with SEIS principles.

In this logic, different administrative bodies in charge of implementation should use existing and regularly updated databases as much as possible to select indicators.

Experience from other EaP countries will be shared, especially from transboundary basins.
Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

Given the four-year length of the project and the time needed to collect and validate data, some results will be difficult to highlight. Consistency with sectoral plans will be sought.

Activity 3.1.1. Development, regular update and implementation of a communication strategy for the project.

Summary of status

Communication and public awareness was developed with significant support from previous technical assistance or institutional support projects in Georgia. In this regard, close co-ordination with ongoing initiatives is required.

Following the EU integration process, work by public authorities together with NGOs and relevant partners needs to be integrated as common practice to support water sector reforms.

Summary of main objectives

Effective communication with targeted stakeholders and the public is essential for in-depth involvement in implementation and decision making; in addition, awareness raising is essential for different actors to adopt good environmental practices. In this regard, the communication strategy will target the following objectives to serve IRWM needs:

- Support policy process and influence specific policies or policy makers around key aspects of the IWRM.
- Encourage participation of key stakeholders to maintain good status of water resources.
- Build awareness on project objectives among different water user groups.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

The establishment of the communication strategy will help continue to strengthen the ability of the Georgians in this field. It will be closely linked with supporting new legislation and national strategies, continuation of National Policy Dialogue (Result 1) and RBMP development and implementation (Result 2). It will be done in relation with the main players in this domain and in partnership with the Aarhus Centre (now Environmental Information and Education Centre) where applicable.

Core activities underpinning the execution of public participation and communication strategies will include the following:

- assessing the main communication actions for participative RBM Planning
- developing and annually updating a communication and stakeholders’ engagement strategy to be co-ordinated at national and basin scales
- supporting implementation of the communication strategy directly in connection with the project.
Main communication tools:

- Develop and maintain a project website with a country page.
- Prepare and publish Information materials: leaflets on the national components (in English and Georgian), brochures on pilot demonstrations, project newsletter, press releases, media articles.
- Promote activities related to effective communication with targeted stakeholders and the public: communication campaigns, school information sessions, conferences, seminars and workshops, roundtables and other events, press briefings or meetings with journalists.

Dependencies and synergies

This is a cross-cutting issue with many synergies at basin, national and transboundary levels with activities under Results 1 and 2.

Developing this activity, the MS experts’ team will carefully ensure co-ordination and promote synergies with the UNDP GEF Kura II Project and other ongoing projects and initiatives.

Activity 3.1.2. Organisation of exchanges in pilot projects to support public and stakeholder participation in the preparation, implementation, review and update of RBMPs developed under Result 2

Summary of status

According to the draft water law, the Georgian legislation will require establishment of basin councils. Key stakeholders in the basin must be involved in basin plan development and implementation. No basin council has been established yet.

Summary of main objectives

- Prepare elements and practical testing of implementation of provisions of Article 14 of the WFD on water users’ participation and public consultation.
- Support the MENRP to co-ordinate basin working groups and public consultation to develop among key interested parties a common understanding of RBMP plans and maintain communication on actions in each river basin.
- Support development of river basin organisations.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

Set up and possibly institutionalise stakeholders’ involvement mechanism at different basin scales. This will include methodological and technical support to institutionalise and strengthen Chorokhi-Ajaristskali, Alazani-Iori and Khrami-Debed River Basin Councils, as well as organisation and
facilitation of meetings with stakeholders to build consensus on shared objectives of RBMPs and PoM.

Main activities will include the following:

- Assess mechanism to harmonise practices and share information and communication with practitioners involved in WFD implementation at basin scale.
- Identify and mobilise relevant stakeholders in the pilot basins to establish stakeholders’ dialogue at basin level.
  - Identify all socio-economic actors, general public and organisations that may engage in consultation.
- Develop mechanisms for stakeholders’ participation in development and implementation of RBMPs:
  - Prepare consultation strategy in the pilot basins in line with the legal and administrative setup developed in Result 1.
  - Develop functioning rules for operational basin council (composition, consultation and decision making, role of the secretariat, etc.)
  - Hold training session and coaching on facilitation techniques for consultation workshops with selected stakeholders.
- Organisation and facilitation of meetings with stakeholders to building consensus on shared objectives of RBMPs:
  - Work plan and pre-identification of main water issues
  - Consultation on PoM to tackle the objectives and draft RBMP.
  - Guidelines on public participation in the relation with the WFD.

Dependencies and synergies

This is a cross-cutting issue with many synergies at basin and national levels with Activities 2.3.1, 2.3.2 and 2.3.6, but also with Result 1.

Close collaboration is requested with other projects and initiatives, particularly with the UNDP GEF Kura II Project.
Activity 3.1.3. Establishment of a mechanism to harmonise practices and share information and communication with practitioners involved in WFD implementation and/or IWRM in the six EaP countries

Summary of status

Development of the WFD-compliant RBMPs requires active involvement of local representatives from different line ministries, as well as co-ordination at national scale that will be extended at basin scale.

Summary of main objectives

- Establish a mechanism to harmonise practices and share information and communication with practitioners involved in IWRM implementation at national level.

- Facilitate national technical thematic meetings to inform and mobilise stakeholders on the challenges of IWRM.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

- Develop and maintain the project website with data and information exchange platform.

- Assess mechanism to harmonise practices and share information and communication with practitioners involved in implementing and strengthening WFD at national scale.

- Create development mechanism for national technical harmonisation of methodologies and practices with ad hoc working groups. This mechanism will allow deepening and concretising the orientations at NPD meetings as presented below.

- Consider need to connect Georgian organisations to European working groups running since 2000 to work out the Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) for WFD implementation.

Main activities will include the following:

- a web-based information exchange platform providing the project results in relation to activities on data management and communication strategy

- support for the national harmonisation of methodologies for IWRM and RBMP, including use of EU, French, and other national guidance documents developed for the different implementation steps of the WFD to inspire development of the Georgian version

- development and animation of a specific working group on stakeholder involvement and communication.

Dependencies and synergies

This is a cross-cutting issue with many synergies at national and international levels with activities 2.3.1, 2.3.2 and 2.3.6, but also with Result 1.
Activity 3.1.4. Organisation of international events including study visits to harmonise practices and share information and communication on WFD implementation, IWRM and MEAs

Summary of main objectives

- Promote and support harmonisation of practices with neighbouring countries.
- Facilitate exchange of experience on WFD with practitioners involved in WFD implementation and/or IWRM in the six EaP countries and beyond with EU MS and Central Asia.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

- Assess experience in bilateral working groups to harmonise practices and international agreements in co-operation with Result 1.
- Organise international events (study visits, workshops, trainings) to harmonise practices and share information and communication on WFD implementation, IWRM and MEAs.
- Network and develop information exchange with relevant institutions and stakeholders:
  - support to ensuring participation of the basin organisations in international networks such as International Network of Basin Organisations, etc.
  - organising twinning exchanges.

Dependencies and synergies

This activity has a strong link with Result 1 and 2, as well as Activities 3.1.1 and 3.1.3 (web-based information exchange platform).

7.3 Organisation and steering structure

Project registration

The first step of registration of EUWI+ Results 2 & 3, the EU Member State Consortium grant contract in Georgia was completed. The second step has begun – registration of EUWI+ Results 2 & 3, the EU Member State Consortium grant contract, in Georgia, the structured government information documents. The complete process is not yet accomplished.

Project partners understand that a certified registration is a prerequisite for supply and service tenders in Georgia, as they will have to pay VAT or import tariffs.
Regional-level arrangements

Regionally, a Project Steering Committee, consisting of six delegations of each EaP country, representatives of the international project partners and representatives of the European Union, is to be established. Its meeting structure and functions are well defined in the Description of Action (DoA) and are not repeated here. The assigned members of the Regional Steering Committee for Georgia are the assigned National Focal Point of the project and one additional member as decided by Georgia.

National-level arrangements

Activity 1.1.2 in the national work plan describes the role of the national NPD Steering Committee as main oversight mechanism.

A National Executive Strategic Board has not formally been established. Its meeting structure and functions are well defined in the DoA and are not repeated here.

The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia appointed Mr Gizo Chelidze, Head of the Integrated Management Department, as the responsible National Focal Point (NFP) of Georgia for the Action EUWI+.

Expert-level structures

The Georgian and international partners have agreed to nominate lead thematic experts to streamline the co-ordination and communication of the main thematic areas of expertise for the implementation of the Action. Table 7.5 summarises the nominated Georgian and international responsible thematic lead experts:

Table 7.5. Expert-level structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Result</th>
<th>International thematic lead expert</th>
<th>Georgian thematic lead expert</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Result 1</td>
<td>OECD and UNECE Project Managers and Thematic Experts</td>
<td>Marina Makarova, Head of Water Resources Management Division, MENRP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R 2 Surface water monitoring</td>
<td>Kristina Schaufler (AT)</td>
<td>Marina Arabidze, Head of Pollution Monitoring Department, NEA Archil Guchmanidze, Head of Fisheries and Black Sea Monitoring Service, NEA (Batumi) Irakli Kordzaia – senior hydrobiology expert of NEA Pollution Monitoring Department, NEA (Tbilisi)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Result</td>
<td>International thematic lead expert</td>
<td>Georgian thematic lead expert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>-----------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R 2 Groundwater monitoring</td>
<td>Christoph Leitner (AT)</td>
<td>Merab Gaprindashvili, Head of the Department of Geology, NEA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R 2 Laboratories</td>
<td>Philipp Hohenblum (AT)</td>
<td>Elina Bakradze, Head of Laboratory of the Atmospheric Air, Water and Soil Analysis, NEA Marina Arabidze, Head of Pollution Monitoring Department, NEA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R 2 RBMP</td>
<td>Yannick Pochon (FR)</td>
<td>Marina Makarova, Head of Water Resources Management Division, MENRP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R 2 Data management</td>
<td>Paul Haener (FR)</td>
<td>Lika Megreladze, Head of Meteorology and Climatology Division, NEA Hydrometeorology Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R 3 Communication</td>
<td>Yunona Videnina (FR)</td>
<td>Nino Gokhelashvili, Head of International Relations Division, MENRP Department of Environmental Policy and International Relations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Country Representatives**

The aim and functions of Country Representatives are well defined in the DoA and are not repeated here.

The Country Representative of UNECE and OECD for Georgia, who helps implement Result 1, is Ms. Eliso Barnavi. Mr. Zurab Jincharadze is the Country Representative of the EU Member State consortium for Georgia, who helps implement Results 2 and 3.

**Project office**

The EU Member State Consortium has established a project office in Tbilisi, as foreseen in the Description of Action, to function as the co-ordination and communication point for the three Caucasus countries, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. The address of the project office is 5, Marjanishvili Street, Room #404; 0102 Tbilisi, Georgia.
## 7.4. Work plan and milestones for Georgia (Gantt Chart)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Result / Activity</th>
<th>Responsible</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inception report</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Result 1 - Legislation Policy and institutional strengthening</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.1 Needs assessment and identification of priorities in the area of support on legislative, economic, and RBM issues</td>
<td>UNECE/OECD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.3 Organisation of NPD meetings and review of progress</td>
<td>OECD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.4 Ad hoc support to national processes related to the adoption of law/regulations and implementation of RBMPs, national plans on harmonisation of legal and normative acts with the requirements of the WFD, IWRM and MEAs</td>
<td>OECD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.4 Develop the National Water Strategy (NWS)</td>
<td>OECD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.4 Harmonize the draft water law with EIA code and other draft laws</td>
<td>OECD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.4 Draft a law on economic instruments for water resources management</td>
<td>OECD</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.4 Revise draft normative act “On water quality ecological standards”</td>
<td>UNECE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.4 Finalization of bilateral agreement with Azerbaijan on the Kura River</td>
<td>UNECE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.4 Implementation of certain aspects of the Kura agreement with Azerbaijan</td>
<td>UNECE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.4 Prepare roadmap for ratification of the UNECE-WHO/Europe Protocol on Water and Health</td>
<td>UNECE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.4 Draft bilateral agreement with Armenia on cooperation on the Khrami-Debed basin</td>
<td>UNECE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.4 Capacity development in the area of water resources management</td>
<td>UNECE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2.1 Needs assessment and identification of priorities in the area of capacity development</td>
<td>UNECE/OECD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2.2 Organisation of trainings</td>
<td>UNECE/OECD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Result 2 - River Basins Management Plans designed and implemented in line with the WFD principles</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.1 Assessment of monitoring and laboratory infrastructure, capacities and needs</td>
<td>UBA/IOW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.2 Purchase of equipment, including hydrological and water quality monitoring stations and rehabilitation and upgrade of existing equipment and existing laboratories</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2.1.3 Technical support to laboratories for accreditation</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2.1.4 Preparation of training plans and organization of hands-on trainings and training of trainers with regard to monitoring and laboratory analyses and to support laboratories for accreditation</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.1 Assessment of the needs and identification of priorities in implementation of the RBMPs</td>
<td>IOW/IWA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.2 Technical Support in the elaboration and implementation of the pilot RBMPs</td>
<td>IOW/IWA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.3 Technical Support to the RBM institutions to tackle coordination in transboundary river basins</td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.4 Carry out biological, ecological, chemical surveys as needed to develop and implement the RBMPs, including internalisation and transboundary activities</td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2.3.5 Investigatory monitoring of water bodies at risk of high pollution or related issues</td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.6 Development and strengthening of national databases on water related issues &amp; ensure compliance of data with SDSS principles for collection and sharing of data</td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.7 Establish a system for regular monitoring of the implementation of the RBMPs’ programme of measures &amp; Support the use of evidence-based data for policy making and review of RBMPs’ programme of measures</td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Result 3 - Lessons learnt regularly collected, shared and communicated to stakeholders</td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.1 Development, regular update and implementation of a communication strategy for the project</td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.2 Organisation of exchange visits (SV) to support public and stakeholder participation in the preparation, implementation, review and update of RBMPs developed under result 2</td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.3 Establishment of a mechanism to harmonise practices and share information and communication with practitioners involved in WFD implementation and/or IWRM in the 6 EaP countries</td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.4 Organisation of international events (IE) including study visits (SV) to harmonise practices and share information and communication on WFD implementation, IWRM and MEAs</td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7.5. Risks and mitigation measures

The following risks have been identified as key for Georgia for which specific mitigation measures are proposed:

Risk 1: Governments are unstable.

The project will continue building and maintaining contacts at a variety of political and administrative levels. This provides some continuity, even in the case of political or staff changes. In the past, short-term administrative instabilities have not significantly disturbed longer-term co-operation. In addition, international co-operation and peer pressure (through EU Delegations) are strong driving forces for water policy reforms and the continuation of policy dialogue on this issue.

Risk 2: Reliable data for robust analytical work are not available.

The project team has accumulated experience in EaP countries to make the best use of existing data, to mobilise local expertise and to refer to expert knowledge when needed. Co-ordination with other projects (e.g. UNDP/GEF) will provide opportunities to share data and identify common sets of indicators in areas of mutual interest.

Risk 3: Absorption capacity is not sufficient to implement the Action effectively.

Lessons learned from prior activities in the target sector in the EaP countries indicate that absorption capacity on national and/or local levels can be the main bottleneck for successful and sustainable implementation of this project. Absorption capacity in this respect must address two main components.

First, absorption capacities can be limited due to the low number of experts (headcount) and by their know-how and experience (knowledge).

Second, absorption capacities can be limited because knowledgeable experts, whether trained within the project or not, get dismissed or voluntarily leave their positions, organisations or the sector altogether.

Absorption capacities will be a constant element of national and regional steering committee meetings and the NPD process. Close co-ordination with the multi-donor co-ordination units of the water sector in Georgia will ensure identification of potential risks due to parallel activities in the sector. It should also allow decisions on appropriate countermeasures. Expertise by local consultants can help overcome potential bottlenecks.
Chapter 8: Republic of Moldova

This chapter was based on analysis of country-specific official data, information from previous projects, outcomes of interviews with stakeholders in Moldova and a joint prioritisation exercise. It presents background for action and cross-cutting issues, and then describes the scope of activities. The Regional Steering Committee endorsed the country-specific work plan in May 2017.

8.1. Country background and scoping of project work

Moldova has generally sufficient access to water resources from its transboundary rivers. There are scarcity problems in the south of the country on the small rivers. Inadequate wastewater treatment also causes problems.

The Republic of Moldova (hereafter “Moldova”), located between Romania and Ukraine, occupies a land area of 33 846 km². Between 1990-2015, population declined by some 20%, mostly due to immigration with the EU and the Russian Federation (hereafter “Russia”). In 2015, as per the last census data, the population amounted to 3 555.2 thousand people, out of which some 57.6% was considered rural.

The two major rivers in Moldova, the Dniester and Prut, are both transboundary. There are two hydrographical basin districts:

- Dniester District
- Danube-Prut and Black Sea District.

Total renewable water resources amount to 11.65 km³ (CIA 2011). Total water withdrawal in 2014 amounted to 840 MCM, i.e. below 10% of the former figure. It has slightly reduced since 2010. However, in terms of indicators such as water intensity of gross domestic product (GDP) (per 1 000 of USD purchasing power parities), Moldova is behind other Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries such as Belarus.

The key challenges faced by Moldova in water management include the following:

- incomplete or not fully consistent regulatory and institutional frameworks (not least, concerning the economic regulation) and underdeveloped policy mixes
- deficient water allocation mechanisms
- need to strengthen risk management both of water-related hazards (over the last decade, floods and droughts as well as extreme weather events – showers and snow storms – have been more frequent and severe\(^\text{10}\)), as well as risks for water resources and water infrastructure (e.g. from diffuse pollution, or impact of extreme temperatures)
- high water intensity of GDP and weak incentives for water-use efficiency
- implementation of River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs)

\(^\text{10}\) See (OECD EAP Task Force, 2013), Adapting Water Supply and Sanitation to Climate Change in Moldova
• limited water monitoring infrastructure and capacity.

Policy makers are aware of these challenges and water sector reform is ongoing. However, there is a need to strengthen policies and further improve regulatory and institutional frameworks to bring them in line with the EU water *acquis* and principles of integrated water resource management (IWRM), as well as with recent international obligations of the country (foremost, water-related Sustainable Development Goals [SDGs] and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change).

Another task is addressing the economic aspects of water management by introducing or upgrading economic instruments for water resources management. Water allocation rules, as well as flood protection management, should be further developed and incentives for water-use efficiency identified and implemented. This will require an appropriate mix of policy instruments.

Table 8.1 presents baseline values of indicators envisaged in the logframe of the EUWI+ project:

**Table 8.1. Water sector indicators and status in 2017: Moldova**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall national indicators</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved practices of river basin management have contributed to stabilise or decrease pressure on water resources.</td>
<td>Some progress observed over 1995-2015 in terms of reducing water intensity of PPP GDP: from 53.2 m³ per 1 000 USD in 2010 to some 49.8 m³ in 2015. However, the value of this indicator is still much higher than in some EaP countries (e.g. almost six times higher than in Belarus). Overall fresh water abstraction has slightly decreased from 857 MCM to 840 MCM between 2010-14.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The pace of convergence with the EU <em>acquis</em> aligns with commitments:</td>
<td>WFD principles partially transposed in water legislation – Water Law of 2011 and related bylaws. Many donors (primarily Austria and Switzerland) provide ongoing assistance to harmonise legislation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Harmonisation of WFD principles in Water Code/water law</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A valuable contribution to SDG 6 &quot;Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all&quot; is achieved.</td>
<td>Coverage by centralised (piped) water supply and sanitation services: 1.8 million people (51.5% of total population) have access to piped water supply 88.3% of urban settlement and 40.4% of rural settlement have operational centralised (piped) water supply systems. The number of people with access to centralised sewerage services amounts to 790 000 or 22.2% of the total population (2015 data).11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Implementation of main principles of EU water acquis</td>
<td>Some progress made: The Water Law of 2011 and related bylaws introduced the basin principle of water management and related bylaws, effective since 2013. The National Environment Protection Strategy for 2014-2023 mentions the implementation of the hydrographical basins management system as one of its specific objectives. Basin committees created in Danube-Prut and Black Sea District and for Dniester District Draft RBMP (first generation) developed for the Danube-Prut and Black Sea District (with support from EPIRB project). Draft RBMP developed for the Dniester District (with support from MCC).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost recovery of water services (incl. environmental and resource costs)</td>
<td>Partial recovery of operations and maintenance costs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes</td>
<td>Treaty on sustainable management of the Dniester River Basin was signed by Moldova and Ukraine in 2012. It was ratified by Moldova in 2013 and by Ukraine in 2017. Agreement between the governments of Moldova and Ukraine on the joint use and protection of the cross-border waters signed in 1994 (the 1994 Agreement); a Meeting of Plenipotentiaries was instituted as a co-operative mechanism. Agreement on co-operation on protection and sustainable use of waters of Prut and Danube rivers signed with Romania in 2010.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protocol on Water and Health to the Water Convention</td>
<td>Party. Latest revised national targets were officially adopted in 2016 with a detailed action plan for their implementation and with estimates of financial resources needed, and established responsibilities and timeline (2016–25).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicators</td>
<td>Status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effective regulatory and governance arrangements are in place</td>
<td>Some progress made: The entrance into force in 2014 of the new law on public water supply and sanitation services triggered positive changes and new challenges in the water supply and sanitation (WSS) sector. It concerns the new role of the central regulator (ANRE) in tariff approval, and the introduction of mandatory licensing requirements for WSS operators serving cities and the region. National economic regulator for WSS (ANRE) established, and a uniform methodology to set WSS tariffs introduced. However, there is room for improving both the economic regulatory system and methodology.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Needs for capacity development and regional activities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable technical capacity development created and embedded in partner institutes</td>
<td>Local capacity is below medium level, leaving plenty of room for strengthening.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Author’s own elaboration.

Support to water sector reform through the EUWI+ project

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) and associated water-related directives encompass a large proportion of the EU water *acquis* and the RBMP process provides an attractive and structured methodology based on IWRM principles. Moldova is committed to implement or to approximate to the water-related EU *acquis* and signed an Association Agreement with the EU in 2014. It is a challenge for the country as water management and governance are under-funded; many key technical institutions depend on support from the donor community.

Implementation of the WFD is demanding both financially and technically. It is a challenge for Moldova, which has many competing priorities to reform its economy. The EUWI+ project seeks to support six Eastern Neighbourhood countries, including Moldova, in water sector reforms at different stages and levels – basin, national and transboundary. Result 1 of EUWI+ will strengthen the legal and regulatory framework at all levels through support for national water legislation. Result 2 will address the review and evaluation of monitoring, support development of new RBMPs and management of data and information. Result 3 will help establish decision making structures at the basin level.

Key stakeholders consulted during the kick-off missions

The EUWI+ national kick-off meeting on 17 November 2016 presented the scope of the project and gathered reaction from a broad range of stakeholders such as representatives of ministries, agencies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and donor projects. Meetings with key stakeholders before and after the kick-off meeting helped gather information to establish the baseline and country priorities.
Overview of the inception phase findings

The project team has extensively assessed the implementation status across each of three result areas in the six countries, in close consultation with the beneficiaries to establish project priorities and targets.

The implementing partners recognised that strengthening water governance in the EaP countries, including Moldova, was a long-term task that would transcend the timeframe of a single project. Any achievement must lay down foundations for subsequent developments in the project design. All countries have adopted a structured, incremental approach, building towards implementation or approximation of the WFD at the heart of all the strategies. The country work plan addresses all elements – legal and policy development, institutional reform, capacity building, investment and implementation – in a coherent manner. In this way, no one single element over-runs another. Instead, they are linked and move forward together and in synchrony. The need for any water governance system to be affordable in the medium and long term has been of prime concern. Any system also needs flexibility to adjust to ever-changing political and economic circumstances.

To help establish the legal and institutional framework, the project will do the following:

- Help establish the primary legislation needed for implementation or approximation of the WFD and secondary legislation for its technical application.
- Help develop strategies for WFD implementation in the short to medium term based on affordability and cost effectiveness.
- Assist countries in meeting their obligations under Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) such as the Water Convention.
- Improve capacity of the main laboratories to comply with the monitoring requirements of the WFD and to obtain enhanced accreditation at national and international level.
- Enhance capacity in ecological and biological monitoring including development of Ecological Status Classification Systems for upper and lower catchments and coastal zones.
- Strengthen monitoring systems for both surface water (SW) and groundwater (GW), and water quantity and quality.
- Increase capacity in RBMP in accordance with the WFD including in Associated Agreement countries’ maximum coverage of the first cycle of plans.
- Create mechanisms within the planning procedures for maximum integration of water sectors and uses with emphasis on the Flood, Nitrates, UWWT and Habitat directives.
- Establish institutions for elaboration and implementation of RBMP at the national and basin level.
- Establish public consultation procedures in RBMPlanning in pilot basins.

The project will deliver the above in a constructive manner tailored to the political and economic context of the country in question.

The specific progress/target indicators under the EUWI+ project for Moldova are provided below.
Key outcomes from the inception phase related missions are as follows:

(i) Key local stakeholders identified, contacts established and political support to the EUWI+ project mobilized.

Table 8.2 lists key local stakeholders and international water projects in Moldova.

**Table 8.2. Institutions and organisations met and during the kick-off missions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution/organisation</th>
<th>Meeting objective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>National level</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MoENV:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Water agency Apele Moldovei</td>
<td>The key local partner for (and key beneficiary of) the project implementation in Moldova</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- State Hydrometeorological Service</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Agency for Geology and Mineral Resources</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parliament (committees responsible for water and the sectors – key water users)</td>
<td>Key agencies involved in water resources management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Chancellery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Economy, Dept. for Policy Integration and General Directorate for Energy</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Regional Development and Construction expert community (research organisation: Institute of Ecology and Geography) and prominent NGOs working on water issues</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association of apacanals and congress of local public administrations (AMAC, CALM)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Academy of Public Administration; and Training Center for WSS at the Technical University of Moldova</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>NPD Coordination Committee (CC)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Basin and local level</strong></td>
<td>Key bodies responsible for managing water at a basin level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Basin councils</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- local public administrations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large water users (e.g. apacanals in Chisinau and Balti cities, and other water utilities)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>International stakeholders</strong></td>
<td>Key bodies with an interest in water management, water projects, including infrastructure development and the EUWI+ project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- EUD to Moldova and EU Advisors to the MoENV and MoAgri</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- UNDP</td>
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<tr>
<td>- IFIs (e.g. EBRD, EIB, WB, KfW, GEF)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- bilateral donor agencies, foremost: Austria (ADA/ADC), Germany (GIZ), Switzerland (SDC) and Czech Development Agency (CzDA)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ongoing international projects:</strong></td>
<td>Ongoing projects in Moldova with opportunity to develop synergies, share data and link indicators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- “Strengthening the institutional framework in the water and sanitation sector in Republic of Moldova” (SDC &amp; ADA);</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- ENI SEIS II East project</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Apă Nord Moldova Project (EBRD, EIB, EU)</td>
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<tr>
<td>- “Harmonisation of legislation with EU directive on urban waste water treatment” (Czech Development Agency)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Institution/organisation | Meeting objective
--- | ---
- “Reducing vulnerability to extreme floods and climate change in Dniester Basin” (ENVSEC initiative - UNEP, UNECE and OSCE)
- “Enabling transboundary co-operation and integrated water resources management in the Dniester River Basin” (GEF, preparatory phase)
- Danube Hydromorphology Project initiative (GEF, PIF)
- “Danube Connects” (ADA, Ministry of Regional Development and Constructions)

(ii) Draft list of needs and priorities. The missions initiated a list of needs and priorities outlined by MoENV. International project implementing partners assessed the list for feasibility within the project budget and timeframe to best address the country needs and priorities and ensure maximum value for money. In so doing, they considered the mandates, expertise and constraints of both beneficiary institutions and respective implementing partners (results of the express assessment are presented in Annex C).

Based on this analysis, a draft four-year work plan for Moldova was presented and supported by the NPD Co-ordinating Committee meeting held on 11 April 2017. Implementation of the work plan would help Moldova achieve significant improvements in several indicators: expected new values are presented in Table 8.3.

**Table 8.3. Baseline and targets for key indicators to be addressed by EUWI+ for Moldova (progress indicators)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Baseline (2016)</th>
<th>Target/Progress (2020)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overall national indicators</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progress made towards achieving water-related SDG 6 &quot;Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all&quot;</td>
<td>Country-specific targets and indicators to monitor progress towards SDG 6 are being developed with support from UNDP. Coverage by centralised (piped) water supply and sanitation services: 1.8 million people (51.5% of total population) have access to piped water supply; 88.3% of urban settlement and 40.4% of rural settlement have operational centralised (piped) water supply systems. The number of people with access to centralised sewerage services amounts to 790 000 or 22.2% of the total population (2015 data).</td>
<td>Mid-term action plan to support implementation of the national WSS strategy adopted, and the strategy adjusted as needed. Country targets and indicators for SDG 6 established. Ad hoc methodological support provided in monitoring progress towards SDG 6 targets. Regional exchange on common challenges and lessons learned provided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicators</td>
<td>Baseline (2016)</td>
<td>Target/Progress (2020)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inclusive platform operates to support water sector reforms and stakeholder engagement and participation in water governance</td>
<td>National Policy Dialogue (NPD) process is well established (since 2006).</td>
<td>NPD on water is a recognised platform to facilitate stakeholder engagement and participation in water governance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic instruments for water resources management are being applied in water management</td>
<td>Water costs recovery (including environmental and resource costs) is partial (recovery of operations and maintenance costs). Several other instruments are not in place or their use could be significantly improved (e.g. water tax and monetary evaluation of damage to water resources).</td>
<td>Economic regulatory system for WSS improved. The use of economic instruments for WRM improved.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Implementation of main principles of EU water acquis**

| Training programme for RBMPs                                                           | Lack of human resources to develop RBMPs.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Training programme established and implemented.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| EPIRB pilot RBMP refined (with consultation activities), and implementation of pilot measures from this plan | EPIRB Plan in approvals with the Moldovan government. Some measures implemented on the basin, but not in a co-ordinated way.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Based on preliminary assessment report findings, refined Prut RBMP, in line with the WFD principles (regarding the consultation process). At least three measures of the plan have been implemented in the basin.                                                                                                                                 |
| National guidelines established                                                        | EPIRB project has already prepared guidelines.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Updated and improved national guidelines to be in coherence with the Moldovan context.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Transboundary thematic working groups created for the establishment for the Prut umbrella plan, and number of transboundary meetings | High demand from Moldova and Romania to establish the ICPDR working group for the establishment of a Prut umbrella plan. No common document so far.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Governance recommendations implemented (working groups), at least two meetings.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Development and strengthening of national water database                               | Ongoing project to develop National Information System.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Recommendations report on strengthening data management.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Procedure and dashboard (including a list of indicators) for evaluating implementation of the programme of measures (PoM) and draft implementation report | Low follow-up for implementation of PoM.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Dashboard or other tools. Procedure guidelines. PoM draft implementation report.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Support for strengthening GW and SW monitoring programme towards WFD compliance in the Danube-Prut and Black Sea RBD | Main areas for further improvement towards a WFD-compliant monitoring identified to date are the following: State Hydrometeorological Service (SHS) in Chisinau is main counterpart for WFD SW monitoring and laboratory analytics, which is well equipped and has well trained staff. GW monitoring is covered by the Geological Agency together with the | Monitoring design for GW and SW (i.e. network, parameters, frequency, etc.) reviewed. GW and SW monitoring programme improved towards WFD principles.                                                                                                                                 |

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Baseline (2016)</th>
<th>Target/Progress (2020)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Geological Expedition, which also runs laboratory analytics of the standard parameters. Review existing SW and GW monitoring and assessment systems for compliance with the WFD. Detailed list of gaps and amendments needed in terms of strategy, procedures, guidelines and training of staff, considering available and newly purchased equipment and new methods.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Adequate equipment, infrastructure and consumables to sustainably carry out WFD-relevant measurements in place. Test methods for additional WFD-relevant priority substances are developed according to ISO 17025 requirements and in line with MOLDAC guidelines. Personnel is trained in new equipment, sampling and testing methods, and technical and management aspects of the ISO 17025 standard. Participation in proficiency testing schemes in water analysis for selected groups of parameters as external quality control measure. Study visit to selected laboratories and administrative bodies of the consortium partners to demonstrate all aspects of accreditation and their implications in routine day-to-day practice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support to laboratories analysis: quality management, training and equipment</td>
<td>SHS in Chisinau is main counterpart for WFD SW monitoring and laboratory analytics, which is well equipped, has well trained staff and holds an official accreditation at National Centre for Accreditation (MOLDAC) for a limited number of test methods in water and sediments, including some priority substances.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Lessons learned are regularly collected, shared and communicated to stakeholders.**

<p>| Communication strategy is in place at basin, national and regional scale to share and communicate efficiently to main interested parties and the wider public | Communication strategies have been developed in the EPIRB project pilot basins and partially implemented. There is no established communication strategy or campaigns at national scale on RBMP implementation. | Communication strategy developed including consistent tested actions at different scales to support NPD and RBMPlanning implementation. Mechanism for sharing information and communication between Results 1 and 2 established (e.g. web-based information exchange platform). |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Baseline (2016)</th>
<th>Target/Progress (2020)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evidence of use of communication tools developed and implemented</td>
<td>Communication tools have been developed in the EPIRB project pilot basins and partially implemented.</td>
<td>Basin- and country-wide implementation of communication tools (awareness-raising events, information materials, websites, press releases, social media, E-learning, workshops) at basin, national and regional scale.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number and audience of targeted communication actions in line with the strategy implemented</td>
<td>The prevailing situation in 2017 in the water sector as investigated during the early implementation phase.</td>
<td>Significant increase of targeted communication actions and audience for stakeholders’ involvement and public awareness raising on sound water resources management by the end of the project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of national institutions and organisations using IWRM knowledge and lessons learned generated for research, planning and policy making</td>
<td>There are few forums for delivery of lessons learned at the national level and none at the basin level – the NPDs being an obvious example. Lessons learned are communicated, but not in a consistent and targeted manner.</td>
<td>Appropriate mechanisms developed to share lessons learned efficiently among main interested parties and stakeholders to harmonise positions on strategic documents (RBMP, thematic and sectoral plans, methodologies, regulation). Significant increase of ownership of strategic documents derived from water-related EU acquis, IWRM and MEAs by the end of the project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence of establishment of stakeholder participation mechanisms at basin, national and international levels</td>
<td>River Basin Councils (RBCs) established in the pilot basins within the framework of previous projects based on donor-driven process are not sustainable in the absence of perennial organisational and financial mechanisms. Key institutional stakeholders in the basin were being invited for discussions at each key stage of basin plan development, under the EPIRB project. Public participation and involvement remain limited.</td>
<td>Development of practices and progressive institutionalisation of stakeholder involvement mechanisms Sustainable consensus building mechanisms in place at the end of the project to harmonise positions on strategic documents among main interested parties and stakeholders at the three main scales will be worked out in the communication strategy.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Author’s own elaboration.*

**Institutional development and sustainability**

The Action EUWI+ is built on lessons learned from several development initiatives of the EU in the water sector in Moldova, primarily from past EUWI EECCA and EPIRB projects.

As a key strategic element, EUWI+ helps Moldova develop its relevant institutions towards sustainable structures for WFD-compliant management of its water resources.

Moldova is undergoing a fundamental restructuring process in its overall governmental structures, which will transform institutions responsible for the water sector. This includes reducing the number
of ministries from 16 to 9. This structural change will be coupled by an overall reduction of staff by 30%.

These plans and the eventual complete overhaul of structures and functions in the Moldovan water sector institutional landscape are a specific challenge for implementation of EUWI+. The project partners have agreed to focus on building Moldova’s water institutions to meet the country’s obligations of the Association Agreement.

8.2. Specific activities

Activity 1.1.1. Needs assessment and identification of priorities in the area of support on legislative, economic and RBM issues

Summary of status

Face-to-face meetings with a broad range of national stakeholders and follow-up exchanges identified country priorities in the area of support on legislative, economic and RBM issues.

Dedicated sessions at the 19-20 September 2016 joint high-level event on EPIRB and EUWI+ projects in Kyiv, Ukraine identified initial suggestions on country priorities. The delegation of Moldova presented a brief overview of the challenges in water resources management and outlined initial priority areas to be discussed in more detail during the inception phase of the EUWI+ project.

The EUWI+ national kick-off in Chisinau on 17 November 2017 and follow-up bilateral meetings with key stakeholders helped gather information about the baseline situation and on country needs.

Early in February 2017, the National Focal Point in MoENV provided the EUWI+ project team with a well-elaborated list of potential priorities that further informed the needs assessment. The list was analysed and prioritised against such criteria as implementability with the project budget and timeframe, and expertise and mandate of the Result 1 implementing partners (OECD and UNECE). The MoENV further revised the list, which was discussed and generally supported by the NPD Co-ordinating Council meeting in April 2017. Section 8.6 presents the resulting draft four-year work plan for Moldova.

Objectives and deliverables

During the Inception phase, the main objectives under Activity 1.1.1 in Moldova have been the following:

- Identify and prioritise country needs related to legislative, economic and RBM issues.

- Achieve agreement on priority activities to be included in the draft work plan for Moldova.

The aforesaid objectives have been achieved including presentation of the draft work plan at national level on 11 April 2017 and presentation at the first Regional Steering Committee meeting on 15-16 May 2017.
Methodology/Steps of implementation

To avoid overlap, the country Roadmap will not be separately produced from the country chapter of the Inception Report. All features of the Roadmap are provided in the country Gantt chart at the end of this chapter. They also appear in a matrix that analyses country priorities (see Annex C).

Responsibilities and required inputs

The work plan and milestones (Gantt Chart) provides a related overview at the end of this country chapter.

Dependencies and synergies

Certain activities in Moldova – development of mid-term Action plan for WSS; work on the use of economic instruments for WRM and capacity development – could enjoy synergies with similar activities in other countries, as well as regional activities on capacity development. It is expected that the EUWI+ project will consistently seek synergies with other international initiatives and projects implemented in Moldova, e.g. SEIS II, as well as projects implemented by development banks (EBRD, EIB, WB, GEF) and bilateral donors (ADA/ADC, GIZ and SDC).

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

All needs identified during the inception phase could not be implemented fully due to limited resources. As new priorities could emerge, it was suggested to revise the draft work plan each year. This would allow the project to focus on implementation of the most urgent needs.

Activity 1.1.2. Organisation of NPD meetings and review of progress

Summary of status

In the EUWI+ project, the OECD and UNECE support at least one NPD meeting each year. The EUWI NPD process in Moldova has been well-established since 2006.

The MoENV and UNECE signed a new Memorandum of Understanding in Moldova in November 2015. In addition to supporting development of policies on water management and WSS, the NPD and its Co-ordination Committee in Moldova are national co-ordinators for water projects implemented with support of the EU and other international organisations such as UNECE and the OECD, as well as by governments of partner countries that co-sponsor the NPD process.

Summary of main objectives

The main objective under Activity 1.1.2 has been to consult with, and get support from, the NPD regarding the draft four-year work plan for Moldova. This objective has been achieved. The NPD will run throughout the project with at least one meeting per year and will monitor implementation of the national work plan.
Methodology/Steps of implementation

The OECD and UNECE will provide assistance – directly and through the local representative of Result 1 – to the Ministry of Environment for organising and facilitating NPD meetings and related expert meetings and ad hoc working groups. It was requested by and agreed with the MoENV that the local representative of Result 1 in Moldova will play the role of secretary of the NPD Co-ordination Committee.

Dependencies and synergies

The upcoming NPD in Moldova could share experiences with, and learn from, NPDs in other EaP countries, especially where the NPD is well-established (e.g. Armenia). The NPD in Moldova could also learn from NPDs in Central Asia (CA). It is assumed that the NPD will continue to secure attendance from relevant stakeholders active in Moldova.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

Regarding the expected government restructuring, it is assumed that the composition and mandate of the NPD CC will be adjusted swiftly and that the committee will continue providing strong leadership for the NPD in Moldova.

The committee will ensure effective co-operation between central bodies and institutions responsible for water management, WSS, and monitoring of external assistance in the areas concerned. This would help reform the regulatory framework to promote effective management of WSS and prevent deterioration of water resources.

Activity 1.1.3. Organisation of regional meetings and Project Steering Committee meetings

Summary of status

High-level regional kick-off meeting: the EUWI+ project inception phase started in September 2016. A joint high-level regional meeting on the EPIRB and EUWI+ projects in Kyiv, Ukraine on 19-20 September 2016 set the scene and informed all key beneficiaries from six countries. Delegations from all six partner countries attended the meeting, including many at high level (deputy minister, state secretary). The first Regional Steering Committee meeting took place on 15-16 May 2017 in Brussels with two representatives from Moldova attending.

With regard to transboundary co-operation, Moldova co-operates with Ukraine and Romania on Dniester and Prut River basins, respectively. Being Party to the Danube River Protection Convention, Moldova plays an active role in the activities in the Danube River Basin by the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR).

There is need to strengthen co-operation with Romania and Ukraine on Prut basin, as well as with Ukraine on Dniester basin.
Summary of main objectives

- Ensure active participation of representatives of Moldova in annual Regional EUWI+ Steering Committee meetings and eventual regional meetings on specific topics for key stakeholders from six EaP countries to facilitate exchange of experiences, share lessons learned and address transboundary issues.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

Regional EUWI+ Steering Committee meetings will be held each year. Relevant meeting materials and communication information in English and Russian will be produced for each meeting. Discussion at regional meetings will identify actions and next steps for achievement of the agreed results highlighted in the work plan.

The first EUWI+ Steering Committee took place on 15-16 May 2017 in Brussels with two representatives from Moldova attending. One of the main decisions was the general approval of the draft Inception Report with national work plans. Comments collected at and after the meeting are addressed in this final report. The next regional EUWI+ Steering Committee meeting was expected in spring 2018, which can update national work plans and the project logframe and indicators as needed.

Other regional activities: in addition, Moldova as well as other EaP countries will benefit from other bilateral/transboundary and regional activities.

Dependencies and synergies

The success of the regional meetings depends on availability of representatives of all six countries to participate and be prepared for discussions and decisions.

This activity could also benefit from cooperation with the NPD process in Central Asia, as well as with regional training activities.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

Chairs of national NPD Steering Committees (normally deputy ministers) are advised to attend regional EUWI+ Steering Committee meetings. Finding a time suitable to all may be a challenge and bottleneck. Suitable replacements should be identified to attend when required.

Activity 1.1.4. Ad hoc support to national processes related to the adoption of law/regulations and implementation of RBMPs, national plans on harmonisation of legal and normative acts with the requirements of the WFD, IWRM and MEAs

Summary of status

The water sector in Moldova is undertaking a long process of reforming policies. Some improvements have been achieved in upgrading the legal framework and its approximation to the European standards and requirements of water-related EU directives. The Association Agreement with the EU
signed in 2014, as well as international conventions to which Moldova is a Party, provide a clear road map towards achieving more efficient management of the water sector.

The Water Law of Moldova (adopted in December 2011) and related bylaws came into force in 2013. It has created favourable conditions for interventions in line with EU requirements and aims to protect water from pollution and establish environmental quality standards according to WFD principles.

The water law and respective bylaws provide mechanisms for managing water resources within the river basins. These contribute to effective action on preventing further damage, and preserving, protecting and restoring surface and underground water resources. They also set the legal base for the water cadastre and WIS (water information system).

The National Environment Protection Strategy for 2014-2023 mentions implementation of the hydrographical basins management system as one of its specific objectives.

WSS Strategy for 2014-2028 provides more concrete strategic goals and mechanisms for implementation of the water policy in the sector. A request has been made for EUWI+ project to support development of mid-term Action and Investment plans for WSS in Moldova.

Activity 1.1.1 identifies as a priority the need to strengthen the economic regulatory system for WSS and introduce new design and construction norms for small-scale WSS systems (with installed capacity up to 200 m$^3$/day).

**Summary of main objectives**

The main objective under Activity 1.1.4 in Moldova has been identification of legal regulatory acts applicable in or impacting the water sector, as well as sector strategy and plans, and RBMPs. This would permit assessment against WFD requirements, IWRM and MEAs and identification of needs for support in this domain. After consultations with different stakeholders, Moldova proposed 11 priority actions under Result 1, some of which the EUWI+ project will implement (see Annex C for full list of proposals).

**Methodology/Steps of implementation**

- Finalise the aforesaid two priority activities launched under the previous project (EUWI EECCA component). This work, by the OECD, will support priorities to enhance the economic regulatory system of Moldova and support implementation of the national WSS Strategy.

- Provide more support to the Ministry of Environment to develop a mid-term Action plan (AP) for WSS in Moldova (lead partner: OECD). The plan shall integrate recent international obligations of Moldova (foremost: SDGs; Paris Agreement on Climate Change). It will also ensure coherence with sectoral programmes for the water-intensive sectors (foremost agri-food, forestry and energy), as well as with water-related EU directives. The AP will provide input to the future master plan for WSS in Moldova.

- Complete work on reviewing water legislation and normative documents for their improvement and approval (in close co-ordination with other donors, especially Switzerland and Austria).
- Provide support (UNECE) to implement the Dniester treaty with Ukraine by organising bilateral exchange and joint planning of activities. UNECE will also support implementation of selected measures from the national programme to implement national targets under the Protocol on Water and Health for 2016-2025.

- Provide, if requested, methodological support to establish national indicators for water-related SDGs, data collection, monitoring and reporting, ensuring no overlap with other donors in the field of SDGs.

**Dependencies and synergies**

Legal harmonisation and capacity building activities must be co-ordinated with the active donor community in Moldova. This is especially key with Austria and Switzerland, which are playing leading roles in harmonising water legislation with the WFD. This activity would benefit from co-operation with Result area 2, as well as with neighbouring EaP countries where the new water strategy was developed recently or is being (or to be) developed or updated (e.g. Belarus, Ukraine).

**Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks**

National-level support is required to deliver many of the reviews and adoption of proposals to achieve required reform.

**Activity 1.2.1. Needs assessment and identification of priorities in the area of capacity development**

**Summary of status**

Local capacity in Moldova should be significantly strengthened, especially in such areas as strategic and mid-term planning of water resources and water infrastructure, economic and financial dimensions of WRM, including the use of economic instruments, etc.

Regarding integrated water resources management, in-depth trainings were requested on such subjects as: conflict resolution and negotiations, monitoring and laboratories, climate change, transboundary management, geographic information systems, hydrology, hydraulic modelling, hydromorphological evaluation, water audits, etc.

Regarding cost recovery of water services: economic and pricing instruments in IWRM, cost calculation for water prices, establishing Water Development Fund, etc.

Regarding policy making and planning: formulation, adoption, revision, monitoring and evaluation at national and local level of sectoral policies (strategies, plans, programmes); creation and implementation of instruments for WSS system development (e.g. operational programmes, funding instruments, incentive schemes, etc); financial planning and budgeting.
Summary of main objectives

The main objective under Activity 1.2.1 in Moldova has been to identify capacity development needs. This objective has been achieved regarding immediate training needs, including opportunities for regional training in addition to national priorities.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

Face-to-face meetings with a broad range of national stakeholders and follow-up exchanges identified country priorities in capacity development. Based on the needs assessment, potential priorities for capacity development were identified.

The inception phase identified prominent training centres – the Academy of Public Administration; and Training Centre for WSS at the Technical University of Moldova – as good candidates for key partners in capacity development. Also, immediate training needs were identified (see above).

Dependencies and synergies

Several common themes emerged during the inception missions that regional training could address in interested countries. This activity would also benefit from whole of action co-operation (e.g. on strategic planning, on the use of economic instruments for WRM) – see Activity 1.1.3.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

Identification and availability of key staff to attend training: the number of people dealing with water management is limited and they are often overloaded with daily tasks.

Activity 1.2.2. Organisation of trainings

Summary of status

Local universities and training centres already provide trainings both to future professionals and water sector experts at the national and local levels. However, additional training packages could add value. In addition, Moldova has a diverse donor community and international projects have been providing trainings for water managers over many years. While training opportunities are often not lacking, the water sector has limited human resources (head count). Therefore, any planned training activities to be well planned and targeted.

Summary of main objectives

- Ensure long-term sustainability of project results in local capacity development through trainings in partnerships with distinguished local training institutions (universities, research institutes, well-established water non-governmental organisations [NGOs], etc.). This will help achieve long-term sustainability of the EUWI+ results in capacity development. The main objective under Activity 1.2.2 in Moldova has been discussions with potential key partners for future capacity development and feasibility of organising trainings.
**Methodology/Steps of implementation**

- Strengthen preparedness and capacity to assess interactions and trade-offs between sectors and to identify solutions. This will require training and awareness on issues including strategic and mid-term planning and use of economic instruments. The knowledge base to support transboundary co-operation needs further strengthening. In addition, need may arise to bring certain key national experts/officials to specific trainings or workshops organised by project partners outside Moldova.

Long-term sustainability of any training modules, webinars and materials will be guaranteed as the Academy and the Technical University of Moldova have a clear mandate for such trainings. Other partners will be considered for specific ad hoc trainings on narrowly specialised fields if key beneficiaries of the EUWI+ project make such requests.

Immediate training needs are presented above (see Activity 1.2.1). For prompt first results in local capacity development, the implementing partners will do the following:

- Focus on training packages (including packages available at implementing partners) that can provide maximum support to the implementation of the work plan for Moldova and add value for local beneficiaries

- Organise respective pilot trainings.

- Explore the opportunity to co-operate with the IOWater training centre in France.

**Dependencies and synergies**

This activity would benefit from co-operation with regional training activities with the other five EaP countries. Particularly, it concerns priority themes identified by several countries of the region, including Moldova for which the option of joint pan-regional trainings may be considered for the following:

- mid-term and strategic planning for water resources and water infrastructure
- use of economic instruments for water management
- strengthened monitoring of implementation of Protocol on Water and Health to the UNECE Water Convention
- strengthened monitoring of the progress with water-related SDGs
- regional workshop on available methodologies for ecological/environmental flow in rivers
- capacity development to strengthen the knowledge base for co-operative water management.

**Activity 2.1.1. Assessment of monitoring and laboratory infrastructure, capacities and needs**

**Summary of status**

Discussions with experts and a first visit to laboratories during the inception phase and a distributed questionnaire, as well as results from the previous EPIRB project, all helped identify the status. Main areas for further improvement towards a WFD-compliant monitoring identified so far are the following: State Hydrometeorological Service (SHS) in Chisinau is main counterpart for WFD SW
monitoring and laboratory analytics, which is well equipped and has well-trained staff. The Geological Agency runs monitoring of GW together with the Geological Expedition, which is also running laboratory analytics of the standard parameters.

**Summary of main objectives**

- Identify gaps between the laboratory and monitoring in the Danube-Prut and Black Sea RBD against the needs of the WFD.

**Methodology/Steps of implementation**

- Jointly assess GW and SW monitoring activities in the pilot basins of Prut and the Black Sea RBD (e.g. network design, sampling, parameters) in close relation to the outcome under Activity 2.3.1 concerning typology, water bodies and pressures.
- Jointly evaluate available strategies, methodologies, procedures and guidance for monitoring and laboratory analysis, considering also the EPIRB achievements.
- Visit and assess in-depth each selected laboratory, considering staff capacities, infrastructure, testing and sampling methods, equipment, status of accreditation and training needs.

**Dependencies and synergies**

- Sustainable implementation of new methods and equipment needs a corresponding legal basis for the monitoring of the addressed substances.
- Long-term assignment of respective staff is a precondition to purchase of specific equipment and provision of training.
- ICPDR and development of a Prut umbrella plan need harmonised approaches.
- In the international project “Strengthening the Institutional Framework in the Water and Sanitation Sector in Moldova” funded by Austria and Switzerland under output 2.5, surface and groundwater quality monitoring network is progressively reaching WFD standards. The following plans need to be co-ordinated:
  - support in the upgrade of the SW and GW monitoring network in terms of frequency and analysed parameters to progressively reach WFD monitoring requirements
  - provision of two automatic SW quality sensors integrated into monitoring facilities of border stations of Prut River
  - trainings for SHS Hydromet and AGRM staff in submitting data to the WIS platform
  - support to implement new hydrobiological monitoring techniques required by the WFD.

**Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks**

- Full commitment of beneficiary; availability and completeness of relevant information; alignment of involved institutions and focus on WFD implementation
Activity 2.1.2. Purchase of equipment, including hydrological and water quality monitoring stations and rehabilitation and upgrade of existing equipment and existing laboratories

Summary of status

Water monitoring programmes need strengthening. GW and SW monitoring are operational, but not fully WFD-compliant. Also, analytical capacity is not fully WFD-compliant, particularly regarding priority substances. Some equipment needs modernisation.

Summary of main objectives

- Implement upgrade and development plan for monitoring and laboratories including:
  - Jointly agreed list of monitoring and laboratory infrastructure, practical equipment and consumables needed and ranked according to priority in enabling the achievement of identified objectives under Activities 2.1.3, 2.3.2 and 2.3.4. This is relevant to further achieving compliance with the WFD and its daughter directive requirements for tendering and purchase under Activity 2.1.2.
  - Description of staff capacities, including job specifications needed for sustainable operation of monitoring and each selected laboratory, considering available and newly purchased equipment and new methods. Identification of additional staff needed will be addressed under Result 1.
  - Amendments needed in terms of procedures and training of staff, considering available and newly purchased equipment and new methods. The identified needs will be addressed in the form of trainings under Activity 2.2.1.
- Deliver, install and hand over appropriate equipment, infrastructure and consumables as defined and agreed in the upgrade and development plan.
- Assure analytical service by fulfilling requirements of ISO/IEC 17025 in terms of availability of maintained equipment and availability of necessary infrastructure.
- Train staff and issue training certificates by manufacturer (where applicable).
- Enhance analytical capabilities over the long term.
- Strengthen GW and SW monitoring programmes in the Danube-Prut and Black Sea RBD towards WFD compliance.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

- Identify any relevant national procedures, such as customs clearance and procurement of equipment in full compliance with the legal requirements and rules applicable to this contract.
- Jointly elaborate tender dossier for the agreed list of infrastructure, equipment and consumables and submission to the official journal.
- Evaluate and document bids, identify best offer, assign and contract.
- Rehabilitate, upgrade and enhance monitoring sites, equipment and laboratories, following the respective upgrade and development plans.
- Install monitoring sites and equipment and train of staff on the equipment, acceptance procedure, compliance with specifications, approval and documentation.

Dependencies and synergies

- WFD compliance of GW and SW monitoring and laboratories is subject to comprehensive check under Activity 2.1.1.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

- The project must ensure that technical specifications are not tailored to a specific product; free and independent procurement must be safeguarded.

- Sustainability of investments in equipment depends on long-term coverage of financial means for maintenance and consumables.

Activity 2.1.3. Technical support to laboratories for accreditation

Summary of status

- The laboratories at the Environmental Monitoring Quality Department of the State Hydrometeorological Service (SHS) in Chisinau are accredited according to the international standard EN ISO/IEC 17025 at MOLDAC for several different test methods in water and sediments, including selected priority substances. All relevant priority substances requested by the WFD are not analysed yet.

- The detailed planning of this activity depends on the outcome of Activity 2.1.1. Laboratories’ compliance with the technical and management requirements of the international standard EN ISO/IEC 17025 (general requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories) will be assessed in depth as basis for further support towards accreditation. The level of support also depends on the available equipment and those which are purchased/upgraded/refurbished under Activity 2.1.2.

Summary of main objectives

- Help laboratories at the Environmental Monitoring Quality Department to expand the accreditation scope for determination of additional priority substances required by the WFD and EQS Directive.

- Conduct a pre-audit assessment report to reveal the degree of compliance with requirements of the ISO/IEC 17025 standard.

- Conduct study visits.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

- Clarify accreditation procedure, costs and timeframe with the national accreditation body.

- Develop and validate method for additional priority substances.
- Tailor technical trainings and trainings of selected management aspects, e.g. changes and new requirements of the new ISO 17025:2017 standard revision.
- Participate in proficiency testing schemes in water analysis for selected groups of parameters as external quality control measure.
- Visit selected laboratories and administrative bodies of consortium partners to demonstrate all aspects of accreditation and their implications in routine day-to-day practice.
- Undertake pre-audit assessment to reveal degree of compliance with requirements of the ISO/IEC 17025 standard.

Dependencies and synergies

Detailed planning depends on the outcome of Activities 2.1.1 and 2.1.2.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

- Provision of technical support depends on the equipment purchased under Activity 2.1.2, raising the question of sustainability of investment.
- Laboratory staff are available and motivated to continue the required working steps between missions in a partly independent manner.
- Training on methodologies for analysing certain parameters needs a corresponding legal basis for monitoring of addressed substances.

Activity 2.2.1. Preparation of training plans and organisation of hands-on trainings and training of trainers with regard to monitoring and laboratory analyses and to support laboratories for accreditation

Summary of status

Though the relevant and responsible experts in the administrative bodies were involved in the implementation of the EPIRB project, EPIRB experts did most of the work. The national administration has limited capacity on its own to accomplish or extend the WFD implementation to further river basins.

Summary of main objectives

- Create a critical mass of qualified staff that can continue independently the development and maintenance of water monitoring and laboratory analysis in line with WFD requirements.
- Enable qualified staff to further train national experts and increase the mass and capacity of qualified staff.
- Base training plans on upgrade and development plans defined under Activity 2.1.2.
- Ensure training documents are available and fit for use after the project ends.
Methodology/Steps of implementation

Administrative bodies need capacity building to ensure sustainability. Trainings will start based on the situation and achievements in the Prut and Black Sea RBD to review and potentially update the RBMPs. Training considers all WFD-relevant aspects of GW, SW, quantitative, chemical, hydromorphological assessment and biological monitoring.

- Jointly develop training plans, competence profiles and training targets derived from the needs identified under Activities 2.1.1 and 2.3.1 and the upgrade and development plans defined under Activity 2.1.2. The plans compile and co-ordinate the single training aspects throughout the project and will be adopted according to progress of implementation and needs identified throughout the project phase.
- Provide intensive hands-on training on:
  - monitoring design (i.e. network, parameters, frequency, etc.) and management
  - sampling of quantitative, chemical and relevant biological indicators (e.g. macroinvertebrates, phytoplankton and fish for upstream catchments) and hydromorphological assessment in close connection with Activities 2.3.4 and 2.3.5.
  - use, calibration, maintenance of equipment and infrastructure for sampling, monitoring and laboratory analyses.
  - evaluation of monitoring results and link to RBMPs.
  - exchange of experience and trainings for selected topics of the EN ISO/IEC 17025 standard for laboratory accreditation.
  - training of trainers for all aspects.
  - preparation of strategies, road maps, guidance and templates.

Dependencies and synergies

Junior experts would be recruited, and competencies and skills built up to enhance sustainability, if needed.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

- Administrative staff are available and motivated in attending the trainings and in implementing the required working steps between the training sessions in a partly independent manner.
- Capacities, and national funds and logistics are sufficient.
- Long-term assignment of respective staff is a precondition to sustainability of capacities.
Activity 2.3.1. Assessment of the needs and identification of priorities in implementation of the RBMPs

Summary of status

Agency “Apele Moldovei” (AAM) develops and implements RBMPlanning. In the framework of the EPIRB project, AAM and the Institute of Ecology and Geography of Academy of Science of Moldova developed the first draft of RBMP for the Prut River and Danube Delta for 2017-2023. The government is reviewing the document for adoption.

Under the EPIRB project and the guidance of the Internal Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR), the beneficiary has been consulting with the two other Prut River Basin countries (Ukraine and Romania) to develop a Prut River umbrella plan. The beneficiary is seeking assistance to continue this work and participate in a newly established working group under the ICPDR.

Preliminary flood risk assessment (master plan) of the Prut River has been developed with the support of the European Investment Bank (EIB). Implementation of the resulting flood risk management plans requires further consultation and considerable funding, which is not available. Agency “Apele Moldovei” would like to review the master plan and are seeking assistance to improve it and have the Flood Risk Management Plan approved by government.

Developing scarcity and drought river plans is also an important objective for AAM. Water allocation plans are not developed as well, and an information decision support system for water resources (SIRA) should be created and developed at the river basin level.

This activity will be implemented in link with the following identified country priorities:

- Provide assistance in defining, improving and promoting the RBMP for Danube-Prut and Black Sea District (draft elaborated within EPIRB Project). (...) Improve co-ordination with other sectoral planning processes.
- Provide assistance to development of the Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) for the Danube-Prut and Black Sea District.

Summary of main objectives

The RBMP for Danube-Prut and Black Sea District, prepared under the EPIRB project and in approvals, can be considered as the plan for the first planning cycle (Fig. 11.1).
Once the Moldovan government approves this first RBMP for Danube-Prut and Black Sea District, the MS experts’ team will support the Moldovan partners so they can update and improve this plan for the second planning cycle and prepare the second Danube-Prut and Black Sea RBMP. The following steps will be taken:

- Assess this first plan, identify shortcomings – particularly regarding its consistency with the WFD – and focus on the country’s priorities. Consistency with the WFD will be evaluated using standard EU procedures. This assessment will be the basis for Activity 2.3.2, particularly for refinement of the DPBS RBMP.
- Prepare, based on the assessment, a training programme for the competent authority in RBMPlanning (namely Agency Apele Moldovei) and key stakeholders for capacity building and on-the-job training (“learning by doing”).

This activity is thus the first step to build capacity of the Moldovan partners to implement the overall IWRM planning process and to prepare an RBMP on their River Basin Districts, in accordance with the WFD and on a timescale compatible with the Association Agreement.

**Methodology/Steps of implementation**

For this activity, the MS experts’ team will take the following steps:
- Support approval of the Prut RBMP and PoM. It would take an-depth review and assessment of the methodologies implemented and of the RBMP established on the EPIRB pilot basin, its shortcomings and compliance gaps with WFD requirements (check list).
- Consult and review to describe technical governance (comitology), staff capacities and needs.
- Assess training needs and prepare a training programme, which will focus on on-the-job training.

**Dependencies and synergies**

MS experts’ team will carefully ensure co-ordination and promote synergies with the following:

- Stakeholder involvement activities under Result 3
- Activity 2.3.3 for the transboundary component
- Moldovan sectoral planning documents
- the Swiss-ADA project, the EAST AVERT project, the "Danube Connects" project and other co-operation projects
- Activity 1.2.2: organisation of trainings.

**Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks**

The EPIRB pilot RBMP was developed with the support of the international consultant team, as the human resources at Agency “Apele Moldovei” were considered insufficient to prepare the plan. This situation could potentially be maintained, but AAM must at least maintain its role of supervision, overall management and guidance for RBM planning, even if it subcontracts activities to other institutions.

**Activity 2.3.2. Technical support in the elaboration and implementation of the pilot RBMPs**

**Summary of status**

This activity strongly depends on Activity 2.3.1: "Assessment of needs and identification of priorities of support for each country in implementation of pilot RBMPs and development of further plans, including transboundary plans."

This activity will also be aligned with the following identified country priorities (see Annex C):

- Provide assistance in defining, improving and promoting the RBMP Plan for Danube-Prut and Black Sea (DPBS) District (draft elaborated within EPIRB Project). (...)
- Develop the Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) for the Danube-Prut and Black Sea District.
- Develop a concept of early warning system in exceptional circumstances.
- Develop an action plan for water protection against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources, including the following:
- Identify vulnerable zones in the Danube-Prut and Black Sea District, according to Nitrate Directive.
- Elaborate a code of good agricultural practice for protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources.

- Provide trainings (in link with this activity to the competent authority and line agencies).
- Reassess water resources at basin and sub-catchments under climate change. Develop a draft of water allocation plan for sub-basin level from DPBS river district (water balance).

In addition to findings in Activity 2.3.1, the inception missions made the following findings related to this activity:

- **Financing of the programme of measures**: Financial resources are not sufficient to fund the proposed programme of measures, despite numerous funds and regulatory systems in Moldova.
- **Implementation of measures in the domestic sector**: ANRE co-ordinates tariffs, but the pricing system is not sustainable to allow the WSS sector to function and develop properly. A lot of abstracted water is not accounted for, and half of the WSS services are bankrupt.
- **Implementation of measures in the agriculture sector**: Irrigation networks are not properly managed and maintained, and thus most are not functioning properly and not providing any water. Moldova does not have strong international support for protection against pollutants from agriculture.
- **Implementation of measures in the industrial sector**: There is a need to rehabilitate water treatment plants, and update the list of water users and list of water users with water permissions.

**Summary of main objectives**

- Refine and update the DPBS RBMP towards WFD compliance.
- Implement selected soft measures from the DPBS RBMP established with support of the EPIRB project.
- Elaborate associated national guidelines with the RBMP process.
- Develop capacities at national level (particularly for Apele Moldovei Agency) so the country can implement the RBMP process autonomously.

**Methodology/Steps of implementation**

**Refinement of EPIRB pilot RBMP**

In light of Activity 2.3.1 outcomes, revision of technical elements of the EPIRB pilot RBMP will be supported through on-the-job training. Some non-WFD compliant elements e.g. public consultation will be reported and realised under Result 3.

For example, technical elements in RBMPs of the Prut and Danube River Districts, particularly the shift of SWB delineation to WFD system B and revised monitoring design, will be revised.
Implementation of programme of measures from EPIRB pilot RBMP

The first step will be to select priority pilot measures from the PoM for implementation. The process should be participative in the spirit of the WFD and in co-ordination with communication activities (Result 3). “Soft” measures from EPIRB pilot RBMP will be selected based on the country’s priorities and findings of inception missions (see "Summary of status"), and in coherence with the available budget. For example, the MS experts’ team could support development of a quantitative water resource management strategy. This could include establishment of a water balance assessment, water allocation plans, developing ad hoc geographic information systems layers and maps, etc.

See below examples of measures from EPIRB Prut RBMP:

1.1.1. Completing the system for surface waters monitoring
1.2.1. Completing the groundwater monitoring system
1.3.3. Delimitation and inventory of protection areas (digital format)
2.1.4. Mapping wastewater discharge points.

The link with sectoral plans will be important to demonstrate the necessary co-ordination and integration for water resources management.

The MS experts' team will then support the competent authorities and project owners to implement the selected measures, through its experience in project management, preparation of studies and terms of references, implementation plans, mobilisation of funds, etc.

Elaboration of national guidelines

To develop a harmonised strategy and steps for the future development and improvement of the RBMP plans, the MS experts’ team will develop national guidance documents in line with the WFD and associated directives. If necessary, and in addition to EPIRB guidelines produced, the guidance documents will include specific examples gained from pilot basin experiences and be adapted to specific countries. The guidelines will contain a portfolio of priority action cards to guide planning and implementation. A roadmap of technical RBMP elements will be helpful for country-wide implementation.

Dependencies and synergies

The MS experts’ team will carefully ensure co-ordination and promote synergies with:

- Other activities: 1.1.4 (regulation), 1.2.2 (organisation of trainings), 2.3.1 (needs and priorities, 2.3.4 and 2.3.5 (data for risk and status assessment), 2.3.6 (sufficient data) and result 3 on stakeholder involvement, information and lessons learned, and communication.
- Swiss-ADA project, GEF/UNDP project, French co-operation project in the Nirnova Valley, and other co-operation projects focusing on these topics and/or providing this type of trainings.
- National projects and measures implemented in Moldova in link with water management.
Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

Moldovan staff must be mobilised early to steer this process with the support of MS experts. Some tasks could take longer than the available project time, but they will be planned carefully to ensure they can be achieved. Planning needs to be accompanied by strengthened human capacities for sound RBM planning in Moldova and proper stewardship of the basins; laboratories and monitoring programmes and systems must underpin the plan both at central and regional levels. These systems are underfunded at present and even minimum requirements to establish WFD compliance are far beyond the sole resources of the EUWI+.

A lesson learned from EPIRB is that “communication between Basin Water Management Authorities and River Basin Committees and sub basin councils in the regions is also important activity for implementing RBMPs and Programme of Measures.”

Activity 2.3.3. Technical support to the RBM institutions to tackle co-ordination in transboundary river basins

Summary of status

This activity will be implemented in link with the following identified country priorities:

- Develop harmonised RBMP on the Prut River jointly with Romania and Ukraine following ICPDR co-ordination. Exchange of experience with colleagues from UA and RO, and also from EU countries (France, Austria).
- Facilitate dialogue with Romanian colleagues, organising regular meetings for the Prut River Basin (MD, UA, RO).

The following information has been gathered regarding this activity:

- Few transboundary consultation activities exist. Some parts of the respective national RBMP are not coherent, such as the delimitation of water bodies along the border between Moldova and Romania. The meeting identified the need for an umbrella plan for the Prut River and supporting the ICPDR working group. At the ICPDR annual meeting in December 2016, Moldova and Ukraine asked for establishment of a dedicated working group.
- High value-added exchanges could be promoted, in particular from Romania which recently joined the EU.

Summary of main objectives

Both Moldovan River Basin Districts are transboundary. It is thus of prime importance for competent authorities in charge of RBM planning to implement a co-ordinated transboundary planning process. To that end, they are expected to do the following:
- Consider the proper scale for river basin management – the river basin – even if transboundary basins may be more complex to manage than river basins exclusively within the national borders.
- Have a coherent approach and develop synergies with riparian countries for planning, particularly the definition of the programme of measures.
- Take advantage and valorise the respective countries' experiences regarding RBMP and the implementation of the WFD to capitalise on this experience more effectively.
- Promote broader co-ordination between countries.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

To support the competent authority (Apele Moldovei Agency) and line agencies to tackle co-ordination for transboundary river basin management, the MS experts’ team will do the following:

- Support strengthening of cross-boundary thematic working groups and creation of a dedicated working group for the Prut RBM at the ICPDR.
- Support review of the Prut RBMP to better account for transboundary aspects in planning (harmonisation of the water bodies delineation, main issues, objectives).
- Organise transboundary meetings to harmonise planning.
- Organise training sessions with Romanian experts in Moldova, on RBM planning and on transboundary co-operation, focusing on Romania’s experience as new EU Member State.

A local consultant will organise this activity through meeting schedules, agendas, reports, follow-up of the activities, transboundary study tours, etc.

Dependencies and synergies

Developing this activity, the MS experts’ team will carefully ensure co-ordination and promote synergies with:

- the "Danube connects" project
- bilateral agreements with Romania and Ukraine.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

The willingness of each country for cross-boundary work and sufficient human resources will be the main bottlenecks. Different rhythms and organisation between the countries could limit global synergies.
Activity 2.3.4. Carry out biological, ecological, chemicals surveys as needed to develop and implement the RBMPs, including intercalibration exercise and organisation of joint field surveys in transboundary rivers

Summary of status

Transboundary SW and GW monitoring (together with Ukraine and Romania) was already performed under EPIRB. It covered chemical monitoring in SW and GW and hydromorphology and biological assessment (macroinvertebrates and macrophytes) in SW. The continuation of (transboundary) surveys under EUWI+ is highly appreciated, especially the evaluation of Ecological Status Classification Systems, as well as a baseline and gap-filling survey on the Prut River.

Summary of main objectives

- Contribute to the comparability of data with neighbouring countries around the shared Prut RBD.
- Ensure availability of sufficient monitoring data (gap filling) to allow for review/update of the RBMPs in terms of characterisation and classification (risk and status assessment) of SWBs and GWBs and the inter-calibration of national SW status assessment regimes under Activity 2.3.2.
- Link biological monitoring experts from neighbouring countries.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

- Develop monitoring schemes of field surveys and joint transboundary field surveys.
- Execute field surveys and joint transboundary surveys in SW and GW covering chemical (also priority substances), hydromorphological assessment and relevant biological indicators and in close adjustment with Activity 2.2.1. Intensive hands-on training on:
  - sampling and monitoring of quantitative, chemical and biological indicators and in assessment of hydromorphological indicators
  - use, calibration, maintenance of equipment and infrastructure for sampling, on-site monitoring and logistics equipment and sample treatment
  - evaluation of monitoring results
  - joint development of survey manuals, organisation of the surveys, mission reports and evaluation.

Dependencies and synergies

Synergies with Activity 2.2.1 (hands-on training) and Activity 2.1.3 (towards accreditation).

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

- Transboundary SW and GW surveys in the Prut basin need mutual commitment with Ukraine and Romania on transboundary co-operation and willingness to share information and data.
- Junior experts are recruited, and competencies and skills built during the project as needed.
- Necessary additional equipment purchased under Activity 2.1.2 is in place.
- Capacities, national funds and logistics are sufficient.

**Activity 2.3.5. Investigatory monitoring of water bodies at risk of high pollution or related issues**

**Summary of main objectives**

- Discover reasons for unknown exceedances, the unknown reasons for risk or the causes of failure of good status or the magnitude and impacts of accidental pollution.
- Fill gaps of monitoring results for proper review/establishment of the programmes of measures of the RBMPs.

**Methodology/Steps of implementation**

- Jointly identify sites for investigatory monitoring depending on results of the pressure and risk assessments under Activity 2.3.2.
- Jointly identify monitoring sites and parameters to be investigated.
- Develop monitoring schemes, survey manuals, organisation of the surveys, mission reports and evaluation of the survey and the data gathered.

**Dependencies and synergies**

- Results of the pressure and risk assessments under Activity 2.3.2.

**Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks**

- The scope very much depends on the results of the pressure and risk assessments within the RBMP elaboration under Activity 2.3.2, the selected pollution cases, the substances concerned, and the sampling and laboratory equipment available.
- Necessary additional equipment purchased under Activity 2.1.2 is in place.
- Capacities, and national funds and logistics are sufficient.
Activity 2.3.6. Development and strengthening of national databases on water-related issues and ensure compliance of data with SEIS principles for collection and sharing of data

Summary of status

Table 8.4. Current status of water data management in Moldova, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Situation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legislation on data management</td>
<td>The SWC of Moldova has been published since 2000 according to the Governmental Decision No. 619 from 16.08.1994 on “Regulations for water bodies’ management and rational use of water resources in the Republic of Moldova”. The cadastre includes annual data on a hydrographical network of the country, water resources and their quality, and on water management. After entering into force of the new water law and according to the Governmental Decision No.763 from 23.09.2013, Agency “Apele Moldovei” prepares and edits the SWC, but due to various reasons (lack of financing, human resources, etc.), it remains to be done.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WIS/water cadastre</td>
<td>Under development with the support of SDC /ADA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data sources</td>
<td>Various data sources managed by various organisations in various formats (.mdb, xls and .doc).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities/ synergies</td>
<td>Work is being done regarding this issue on ”SIRA”, on which Apele Moldovei, SHS and the Agency for Geology and Mineral Resources (AGMR) are providing data. These three organisms are also co-administrators for the platform. All water and environment resources data will be included in the SIRA (including water quality monitoring data, which has its own access database). There is a platform, but it is imperfect.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary of main objectives

Table 8.5. Country needs regarding data management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initial official request</th>
<th>Support in developing the water cadastre and its link with SIRA (Informational System of Water Resources) – e.g. a pilot Ciuhur River Basin. “Apele Moldovei” is responsible for preparing and editing the State Water Cadastre, but due to various reasons (lack of financing, human resources, etc.), it remains to be done. Updating the reporting process and data collection on water use, compliant with SEIS and WISE principles according to WFD requirements and other directives (new questionnaires).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Complementary request of partners</td>
<td>- In addition to an important data production gap, there is a lack of data exchange.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Co-operation and co-ordination to develop SIRA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Agency “Apele Moldovei” would like to have support on spatial data collection and training to use metadata. A pilot project on a sub-basin, where such data would be collected, could be developed as an integrated part of the information resources management system. They would need methodological and technical assistance.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- AAM also wishes to have feedback and advice on the development and institutional framework for SIRA.
- Spatial data collection and training are needed to use metadata. A pilot project on a sub-basin of the Danube-Prut and Black Sea River District could collect such data and develop as an integrated part of the information resources management of SIRA, to delimit the buffer zones and to rehabilitate some of this buffer zones. Uploading data, etc., and methodological and technical assistance are also needed.
- Support in developing the legal framework. Need to support the hosting of the information system into a secured and protected location. Institutional framework. SIRA: they will collect and upload data on which they are responsible. All water and environment resources data will be included in the SIRA. There is a platform already, but it is imperfect. It started with the "Compact" programme, but stopped. It’s unclear who monitors data or the system itself. Three administrators/data providers for the SIRA: Apele Moldovei, SHS, Agency for Geology and Mineral Resources.
- Support for organisation of priority information production objectives for IWRM (Maps for RBMP, PoM implementation indicators).

**Summary of main objectives**

Support development of automatised processing from water data producer to feed the water information system, with valorisation of data online to facilitate the following:

- production of information for RBMP following needs
- access to data for SEIS indicators production
- better access to data and information to partners and to the public (following rights given by the initial data producers).

The implementation of this approach will include activities related to:

**Organisational aspects:**

- support bylaw updating about role/responsibilities of water cadastre/SIRA to be used among others as a source for RBMP, partners and public information
- workshop on data management (exchange on situation, data flow analysis, presentation metadata production process, need analysis)
- support for development of agreements on data exchanges with partners
- support for organisation of metadata production with/by the data producers (cf. Inspire)
- agreement for hosting and maintenance of online server
- agreement about what can be published.
Technical aspects:
- support to configuration of online server
- support to catalogue of metadata preparation/implementation
- support AMA staff for data collection from data producers
- support to automatic data flow exchange organisation, first on surface water quality data
- support information production according to needs (RBMP, Flood plans, etc.).

Methodology/Steps of implementation

An average of two missions of one expert per year, to be launched according to needs, is reserved to develop the proposal of action.

Dependencies and synergies

Developing this activity, the MS experts’ team will carefully ensure co-ordination and promote synergies with the following:

- Activity 2.3.7. Establish a system for regular monitoring of the implementation of the RBMPs’ programme of measures and support the use of evidence-based data for policy making and review of RBMPs programme of measures.
- Activity 3.1.2. Organisation of exchanges in pilot projects to support public and stakeholder participation in the preparation, implementation, review and update of RBMPs developed under Result 2.
- The SEIS project.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

Good development of these activities requires the following:

- political will to organise water data sharing between institutions
- clear sharing of responsibilities and tasks between the various organisations involved in water data production/management and valorisation
- availability of online server with possibilities to install the necessary software
- availability of staff for:
  - technical management of the information system
  - organisation of data exchange between institutions.
Activity 2.3.7. Establish a system for regular monitoring of the implementation of the RBMPs and support the use of evidence-based data for policy making and review of RBMPs’ programme of measures

Summary of status

Moldova has developed and is developing a lot of sectoral and thematic strategies and programmes (WSS and health issues, water management and hydro melioration, urban wastewater, environment, adaptation to climate change, biodiversity, agricultural pollutants, flood management, etc.). All must be considered and integrated into the overall RBMPlanning process and PoM. Co-ordination between line agencies for establishment and implementation of the plan needs to be improved (Result 3).

This activity will also be implemented in alignment with the following identified country priorities:

- Develop a dashboard for following-up implementation of this plan.
- Improve co-ordination with other sectoral planning processes.

Summary of main objectives

- Raise awareness among decision makers on the need for reliable indicators to assess RBMP implementation and reorient regional water policies if needed
- Provide tools for easy visualisation and understanding, such as a dashboard.

This activity will thus develop indicators to monitor implementation of the programme of measures of the RBMPs. It will support monitoring of the PoM to help the team better follow up and consider implemented measures and their impacts on the water resources. This, in turn, will inform update of the next RBMPlanning cycle.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

A dashboard model will be targeted for the Prut River as it is a more advanced RBMP and will allow deepening of relations with other water sectors and bilateral projects.

- Analyse in detailed programme of measures and categorisation/typology of measures, including the definition of responsibilities.
- Identify/develop appropriate indicators to monitor implementation of measures and validation.
- Analyse indicators availability: gather national policy papers from different sectors and identify measures implemented in EPIRB pilot river basin; study the possibility of using work done on the SDGs; develop practices to use socio-economic data to extrapolate quantified information about pressures; water resources status; etc.
- Propose a procedure and responsibilities for regularly evaluating implementation progress.
- Prepare data necessary for an interim report about PoM implementation.

Actions will consist in trainings and desk support for settling the process of gathering indicators and linking indicators to decision making.
Dependencies and synergies

To optimise work on the dashboard, the activity will be closely connected to Activity 2.3.6. National databases on water-related issues must be developed and strengthened. Collection and sharing of data must comply with SEIS principles.

In this logic, different administrative bodies in charge of implementation should use existing and regularly updated database as much as possible to select indicators.

This activity is associated with Activity 2.3.2 about implementation of the pilot RBMP.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

Given the four-year length of the project and the time needed to collect and validate data, some results will be difficult to highlight. However, the methodology will be familiar. Consistency with sectoral plans will be sought.

Activity 3.1.1. Development, regular update and implementation of a communication strategy for the project

Summary of status

Communication and public awareness were developed with important support from previous technical assistance or institutional support projects in Moldova. In this regard, close co-ordination with ongoing initiatives is required.

Following the EU integration process, work by public authorities with NGOs and relevant partners is increasingly integrated to support reforms in the water sector.

Summary of main objectives

Effective communication with targeted stakeholders and the public is essential for in-depth involvement in the decision and measure implementation process. In addition, awareness raising is essential for adoption of good environmental practices by the different actors. In this regard, the communication strategy will target the following objectives to serve the need of IRWM:

- Support policy process and influence specific policies or policy makers around key aspects of the IWRM.
- Encourage participation of key stakeholders to maintain good status of water resources.
- Build awareness of the project among different water user groups.

Under this activity the country priorities will be also addressed with respect to the following issues:

- establishing the mechanism for public access to water management information
- information and awareness-raising campaigns for local public authorities on efficient water management in small river sub-basins.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

The establishment of the communication strategy will be the occasion to continue strengthening capacity of Moldova in this field. It will be closely linked with supporting new legislation and national strategies, setting up an NPD (Result 1) and RBMP development and implementation (Result 2). The main players in this domain will partner with Moldavian NGOs where applicable.

Core activities underpinning public participation and communication strategies will include:

- assessing main communication actions for participative RBMPlanning
- developing and annually updating a communication and stakeholders’ engagement strategy to be co-ordinated at national and basin scales, including development of an NPD communication plan
- supporting implementation of the communication strategy directly in connection with the project.

Main communication tools:

- Develop and maintain a project website with a country page.
- Prepare and publish Information materials: leaflets on the national components (in English and Georgian), brochures on pilot demonstrations, project newsletter, press releases, media articles.
- Promote activities related to effective communication with targeted stakeholders and the public: communication campaigns, school information sessions, conferences, seminars and workshops, roundtables and other events, press briefings or meetings with journalists.

Dependencies and synergies

This is a cross-cutting issue with many synergies at basin, national and transboundary levels with activities under Results 1 and 2.

Activity 3.1.2. Organisation of exchanges in pilot projects to support public and stakeholder participation in the preparation, implementation, review and update of RBMPs developed under Result 2

Summary of status

In accordance with the new water law, the basin committees for the two hydrographic districts have been established and met a few times. However, they have been inactive for a few years. Also, government officials are disproportionately represented. The consultation of the basin committee, particularly with local stakeholders and water users, on the main issues, priorities and objectives for IWRM thus does not take place.
In addition to the two basin committees created, Agency “Apele Moldovei” wishes to establish sub-basin councils. Several councils were created over the last two years for the Prut River tributaries (Ciuhur, Camenca, Larga, Tigheci): they will have a consultative role as well.

Summary of main objectives

- Prepare elements and practical testing of implementation of provisions of WFD Article 14 on water users’ participation and public consultation.
- Support the MoE to co-ordinate basin working groups and public consultation to develop among key interested parties a common understanding of the aim of RBMPlans and maintaining communication on actions in each river district.
- Support the Prut basin management organisation to mobilise stakeholders to discuss each key stage of RBMP development.

Under this activity the following country priorities will be addressed:

- Develop a guidance document showing the data holders and establishing the mechanism for public access to water management information.
- Deliver information and awareness-raising campaigns for local public authorities on efficient water management in small river sub-basins and methodological support for establishing committees for river sub-basins.
- Support establishment of a sub-basin committee for a pilot small river (e.g. Lapusna, Vilia, Racovet).
- Train for communication with public on integrated management of water resources.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

- Set up and possibly institutionalise stakeholders’ involvement mechanism at different basin scales that will include methodological and technical support to Danube Prut River District Committee, as well as organise and facilitate meetings with stakeholders at basin and sub-basin levels to build consensus on shared objectives of RBMPs and PoM.

Main activities will include the following:

- Assess mechanism to harmonise practices and share information and communication with practitioners involved in WFD implementation at basin scale and strengthening.
- Identify and mobilise relevant stakeholders in the pilot basins to establish stakeholder dialogue at basin and sub-basin level.
- Identify all socio-economic actors, general public and organisations that may engage in consultation
- Develop mechanisms for stakeholder participation in the development and implementation process of the RBMPs:
- Prepare the consultation strategy in the pilot basins in line with the legal and administrative setup developed in Result 1.
- Develop functioning rules for operational basin committee (composition, consultation and decision making, role of the secretariat, etc.).
- Hold training session and coaching on facilitation techniques for consultation workshops with selected stakeholders.
- Organise and facilitate meetings with stakeholders to build consensus on shared objectives of RBMPs and PoM:
  - Develop work plan and pre-identify main water issues.
  - Consult on PoM to tackle the objectives and draft RBMP.
- Develop guidelines on public participation in relation with the WFD.

Dependencies and synergies

This is a cross-cutting issue with many synergies at basin and national levels with Activities 2.3.1, 2.3.2 and 2.3.6, but also with Result 1.

Close collaboration is requested with other projects and initiatives (e.g. Swiss-ADA project, Danube connects” project, French decentralised co-operation project on Nirnova sub-basin, as well as GEF Dniester project).

Activity 3.1.3. Establishment of a mechanism to harmonise practices and share information and communication with practitioners involved in WFD implementation and/or IWRM in the six EaP countries

Summary of status

- MoE as main project beneficiary should co-ordinate all activities with all stakeholders (AAM, SH5, AGMR, EhGeoM), including the public and NGOs. Improvement of inter-sectoral co-ordination and further development of stakeholder involvement mechanisms are needed.
- RBMP prepared in the frame of the EPIRB project for the Moldovan Danube-Prut and Black Sea River District for one cycle (2017-23) is being co-ordinated and reviewed by government.
- There is a strong need to co-ordinate with the other international projects, to avoid overlapping activities and to identify, from the PoM, which ones could already be considered.

Summary of main objectives

- Establish a mechanism to harmonise practices and share information and communication with practitioners involved in IWRM implementation at national level.

- Facilitate national technical thematic meetings to inform and mobilise stakeholders on the challenges of IWRM.

- Establish mechanism for public access to water management information.
Methodology/Steps of implementation

- Develop and maintain project website with data and information exchange platform.
- Assess mechanism to harmonise practices and share information and communication with practitioners involved in WFD implementation at national scale.
- Develop a mechanism for national technical harmonisation of methodologies and practice with ad hoc working groups. This mechanism will allow for deepening orientations at the NPD meetings (Figure 8.2), and making them more concrete.
- Consider connecting the Moldovan organisation to European working groups running since 2000 to work out the Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) for WFD implementation, as well as ICPDR working groups.

Figure 8.2. Proposed co-ordination mechanisms

Main activities will include the following:

- Develop web-based information exchange platform that provides the different results in relation to activities on data management and communication strategy.
- Support development of a working group for the national harmonisation of methodologies for IWRM and RBMP.
- Support animation of the working groups, including use of EU, French and other national guidance documents developed for the WFD to inspire development of the Moldavan version.
- Develop and facilitate a specific working group on stakeholders’ involvement and communication.
- Prepare summary reports on the events to consolidate and harmonise practices in the different basins and list participants.

Dependencies and synergies

This is a cross-cutting issue with many synergies at national and international levels with activities 2.3.1, 2.3.2 and 2.3.6, but also with Result 1.

Activity 3.1.4. Organisation of international events including study visits to harmonise practices and share information and communication on WFD implementation, IWRM and MEAs

Summary of main objectives

- Promote and support harmonised practices with neighbouring countries (Romania, Ukraine in particular).

- Facilitate exchange of experience on WFD with practitioners involved in WFD implementation and/or IWRM in the six EaP countries and beyond with EU MS and Central Asia.

This activity will address the following country priorities:

- Facilitate dialogue with Romanian colleagues, regular meetings to be organised for the Prut River Basin (MD, UA, RO).
- Study visits with a mix of stakeholders in pilot regional basins (partners in the project).

Methodology/Steps of implementation

- Assess experience in bilateral working groups to harmonise practices and international agreements in co-operation with Result 1.
- Develop a mechanism for discussion of the harmonisation of water bodies delineation at the border involving local practitioners, and contribute to concrete cross-border co-operation and synergies on monitoring.
- Organise international events (study visits, workshops, trainings) to harmonise practices and share information and communication on WFD implementation, IWRM and MEAs.
- Network and develop information exchange with relevant institutions and stakeholders:
  - Support to ensure participation of the basin organisations in international networks such as International Network of Basin Organisations, etc.
  - Organise and conduct twinning exchanges.

Dependencies and synergies

This activity has a strong link with Results 1 and 2, as well as Activities 3.1.1 and 3.1.3 (web-based information exchange platform).
8.3. Organisation and steering structure

Project registration

The registration of EUWI+ Result 2 & 3, the EU Member State grant contract, in Moldova was begun and completed. Project partners understand that certified registration is a prerequisite for supply and service tenders in Moldova, as they will have to pay VAT or import tariffs.

Regional-level arrangements

Regionally, a Project Steering Committee, consisting of six delegations from each EaP country, representatives of the international project partners and representatives of the EU, is to be established. Its meeting structure and functions are well defined in the Description of Action (DoA) and are not repeated here. The assigned members of the Regional Steering Committee for Moldova are the assigned National Focal Point of the project and one additional member as decided by Moldova.

National-level arrangements

Activity 1.1.2 in the national work plan covers the role of the national NPD Steering Committee as main oversight mechanism.

A National Executive Strategic Board (NESB) called the National Co-ordination Committee of the EUWI+ project in the Republic of Moldova was established by the Ordinance of the Minister of Environment No. 42 of 14 April 2017. Its meeting structure and functions are well defined in the DoA and are not repeated here.

The Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova appointed Ms Inga Podoroghin, State Secretary, as the responsible National Focal Point (NFP) of Moldova for the Action EUWI+.

Expert-level structures

The Moldovan and international partners have agreed to nominate lead thematic experts to streamline co-ordination and communication for the Action (Table 8.6):
### Table 8.6. Expert-level structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Result</th>
<th>International thematic lead expert</th>
<th>Moldovan thematic lead expert</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Result 1</td>
<td>OECD and UNECE Project Managers and Thematic Experts</td>
<td>Andrei Ursache, Head of Water, soil, subsoil unit, MoEnv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R 2 Surface water monitoring</td>
<td>Robert Konecny (AT)</td>
<td>Gabriel Gilca, Head of Environmental Monitoring Department, SHS on qualitative issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Valeriu Cazac, Head of Hydrological Monitoring Department, SHS on quantitative issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Natalia Zgircu Deputy Head of Environmental Monitoring Department, Head of Laboratory, SHS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R 2 Groundwater monitoring</td>
<td>Andreas Scheidleder (AT)</td>
<td>Boris Lurciuc, Head of the Geological Fund Section, AGRM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Daniela Raducan, responsible for monitoring of GW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R 2 Laboratories</td>
<td>Cristina Trimbacher (AT)</td>
<td>Natalia Zgircu, Deputy Head of Environmental Monitoring Department, Head of laboratory, SHS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R 2 RBMP</td>
<td>Philippe Sennhauser (FR)</td>
<td>Radu Cazacu, Vice Director of AAM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mariana Codreaunu, Deputy Head of Water Management Department, AAM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R 2 Data management</td>
<td>Paul Haener (FR)</td>
<td>Rodica Martea, Senior specialist for Cadastre Alexandru Tabacaru, GIS expert, SE “Basin Water Authority”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R 3 Communication</td>
<td>Yunona Videnina (FR)</td>
<td>Mariana Codreaunu, responsible of the strategy + is responsible for the Dniester District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dumitru Proca, senior specialist, Department of Water Management, Secretary of Danube, Prut and Black Sea RB Committee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Country Representatives**

The aim and functions of Country Representatives are well defined in the DoA and are not repeated here.

The Local Representative of Result 1 in Moldova, who helps the UNECE and OECD implement Result 1, is Ms. Diana Celac. Mr. Victor Bujac is the Local Representative of Results 2 and 3 in Moldova, who helps the EU Member State consortium implement these two result areas.
### 8.4. Work plan and milestones for Moldova (Gantt Chart)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Result / Activity</th>
<th>Responsible</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Result 1 - Legislation, Policy and Institutional Strengthening</strong></td>
<td>Project Team</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.1 Needs assessment and identification of priorities in the area of support on legislative, economic, and RBM issues</td>
<td>UNECE/OECD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.2 Organization of NPD meetings and review of progress</td>
<td>UNECE/OECD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.3 Organization of Regional Meetings and Project Steering Committee Meetings</td>
<td>OECD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.4 Ad hoc support to national processes related to the adoption of laws/regulations and implementation of RBMPs. National plans on harmonization of legal and normative acts with the requirements of the WFD, IWRM and MEAs</td>
<td>UNECE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.5 Harmonization of water legislation with EU</td>
<td>UNECE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2.1 Needs assessment and identification of priorities in the area of capacity development</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2.2 Organization of trainings</td>
<td>IOW/UBA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Result 2 - River Basins Management Plans designed and implemented in line with the WFD principles</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.1 Assessment of monitoring and laboratory infrastructure, capacities and needs</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.2 Purchase of equipment, including hydrological and water quality monitoring stations and rehabilitation and upgrade of existing equipment and existing laboratories</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.3 Technical support to laboratories for accreditation</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.1 Preparation of training plans and organization of hands-on trainings and training of trainers with regard to monitoring and laboratory analyses and to support laboratories for accreditation</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.1 Assessment of the needs and identification of priorities in implementation of the RBMPs</td>
<td>IOW/UBA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.2 Technical Support in the elaboration and implementation of the pilot RBMPs</td>
<td>IOW/UBA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.3 Technical Support to the RBM institutions to tackle coordination in transboundary river basins</td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.4 Carry out biological, ecological, chemical surveys as needed to develop and implement the RBMPs, including intercalibration and transboundary activities</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.5 Investigatory monitoring of water bodies at risk of high pollution or related issues</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.6 Development and strengthening of national databases on water related issues &amp; ensure compliance of data with SEIS principles for collection and sharing of data</td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.7 Establish a system for regular monitoring of the implementation of the RBMPs programme of measures &amp; Support the use of evidence-based data for policy making and review of RBMPs programme of measures</td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Result 3 - Lessons learnt regularly collected, shared and communicated to stakeholders</strong></td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.1 Development, regular update and implementation of a communication strategy for the project</td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.2 Organisation of exchanges in pilot projects to support public and stakeholder participation in the preparation, implementation, review and update of RBMPs developed under result 2</td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.3 Establishment of a mechanism to harmonise practices and share information and communication with practitioners involved in WFD implementation and/or IWRM in the 6 EaP countries</td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.4 Organisation of international events (IE) including study visits (SV) to harmonise practices and share information and communication on WFD implementation, IWRM, MEAs</td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td>III</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
8.5. Risks and mitigation measures

The following risks have been identified as key for Moldova for which specific mitigation measures are proposed:

Risk 1: Government is unstable.

The project will continue building and maintaining contacts at a variety of political and administrative levels. This provides good continuity, even in the case of political changes (as was previously experienced in Moldova). In the past, short-term political instabilities have not significantly disturbed longer term co-operation under the NPD. In addition, international co-operation and pressure, for example through the EU Delegation, are strong driving forces for water policy reforms and the continuation of policy dialogue on this issue.

Risk 2: Reliable data for robust analytical work are not available.

The project team has accumulated experience in EaP countries to make the best use of existing data, to mobilise local expertise, and to refer to expert knowledge when needed. Co-ordination with other projects (see Table 8.2) will provide opportunities to share data and identify common sets of indicators in areas of mutual interest.

Risk 3: Local management and expert capacity, as well as absorption capacity are not sufficient to implement the Action effectively.

Lessons learned from prior activities in the target sector in the EaP countries indicate that management and expert capacity, as well as absorption capacity on national and/or local levels, can be the main bottleneck for successful and sustainable implementation of this project. Absorption capacity in this respect has been in two main areas:

First, absorption capacity can be limited due to the low number of experts (headcount) and by their know-how and experience (knowledge).

Second, absorption capacity can be limited because of high staff turnover, with knowledgeable experts leaving their positions, organisations or the sector.

Local management and expert capacity, as well as the absorption capacities will be a constant element of national and regional Steering Committee meetings and the NPD process. Close co-ordination with donors in the water sector will ensure timely identification and addressing of potential risks from parallel activities. This should, in turn, allow completion of appropriate countermeasures. Expertise by local consultants can also help overcome potential bottlenecks.
Chapter 9: Ukraine

This chapter was based on analysis of country-specific official data, information from previous projects, outcomes of interviews with stakeholders in Ukraine and a joint prioritisation exercise. It presents background for action and cross-cutting issues, and then describes the scope of activities. The Regional Steering Committee endorsed the country-specific work plan in May 2017.

9.1. Country background and scoping of project work

Ukraine is generally rich in water resources, but access to these resources vary; poorer areas in the East and South have less access.

Drinking water in Ukraine is extracted from surface water (65%) and groundwater resources (35%). Ukraine has reasonable access to water supply and sanitation services. Of the urban population, 86% has access to piped water, but only 22% has access in rural areas; 72% of the entire population has access to flush toilets and 37%, most of whom live in urban areas, is connected to wastewater treatment. Approximately one-third of collected wastewater is effectively treated, resulting in large volumes of untreated wastewater directly discharged into the environment, causing pollution and health hazards. Water quality is affected by discharges of untreated municipal and industrial wastewaters, as well as by diffuse pollution from agriculture. While access to water supply and sanitation services is relatively high throughout the EaP region, especially in urban areas, the quality of services is not always considered sufficient. The increased frequency of severe flooding and droughts is another serious issue impacting the region.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water resources in Ukraine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average annual precipitations (mm/year)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total renewable water resources ($10^6$ m$^3$/year)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total renewable water resources (m$^3$/inhab/year)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total water withdrawal ($10^6$ m$^3$/year) in 2010:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipalities (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry (%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The key challenges Ukraine faces concerning water resource management include:

- limited or obsolete regulatory and institutional frameworks
- deficient water allocation mechanisms and flood protection management
- weak incentives for water-use efficiency and underdeveloped policy mixes
- incomplete adoption and implementation of River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs)
- limited water monitoring infrastructure and capacity.
There is a need to reform water sector policies and improve regulatory and institutional frameworks to bring them in line with the principles of integrated water resource management (IWRM). The economic aspects of water management should be addressed through the introduction or upgrade of IWRM instruments. Water allocation rules and flood protection management should be further developed and incentives for water-use efficiency identified and implemented. This will require a mix of policy instruments.

**Table 9.2. Water sector indicators and status in 2017: Ukraine**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overall national indicators</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The pace of convergence with the EU acquis aligns with commitments. Status of harmonisation of WFD principles in Water Code/water law</td>
<td>Transposed, revised version of Water Code was enforced in February 2017.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protocol on Water and Health to the Water Convention</td>
<td>Partly, but national targets outdated (approved 2011).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes</td>
<td>Partly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convention on Co-operation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the River Danube</td>
<td>Partly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inclusive platforms created/revived to support water sector reforms and stakeholder participation in water governance</td>
<td>National Policy Dialogue (NPD) to be revived. Water co-ordination and co-operation platforms at national/regional/basin levels have not become established practice yet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progress towards achievement of water-related SDG 6 &quot;Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all&quot;</td>
<td>On track. No specific country indicators developed yet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Implementation of major principles of EU water acquis</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation of basin principle Practices of river basin management contribute to stabilise or decrease pressure on water resources</td>
<td>Progressed; RBMPs developed or being developed for four out of seven basin districts while basins not yet delineated. Practices are expected to be improved once the RBMPs begin implementation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advancement in institutional arrangements for water resources management (RBOs) and River Basin Councils</td>
<td>There are nine water basin management administrations (WBMAs). Also, there are public basin councils to help WBMAs create RBMPs. These councils function based on agreements between the regions, but they have no legal basis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved water allocation rules and planning</td>
<td>Rules and practices need to be updated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic instruments (like appropriate tariff setting) are being applied in water management</td>
<td>Water costs recovery (including environmental and resource costs) is partial (operations and maintenance costs).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Needs for capacity development and regional activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation of representatives/officials in joint (intersectoral or transboundary) meetings, assessments, trainings, monitoring, etc.</td>
<td>Yes, regularly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparedness and capacity to assess interactions and trade-offs between sectors and to identify solutions</td>
<td>Capacity needs further development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge base to support transboundary co-operation</td>
<td>Capacity needs further development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequency and coverage, representativeness and quality of monitoring</td>
<td>Needs further strengthening.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inter-agency/cross-border joint monitoring and laboratory exercises</td>
<td>Carried out, but not regularly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applied improved procedures and international standards (QA, laboratory analysis, etc.)</td>
<td>Partially.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exchange and regional harmonisation of practices</td>
<td>Needs to be improved.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Authors’ own elaboration.*
Support to water sector reform through the EUWI+ project

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) and associated directives encompass a large proportion of the EU water acquis, while the RBMP process provides an attractive and structured methodology based on IWRM principles. Ukraine is committed to implement or to approximate to the EU water-related acquis and signed an Association Agreement with the EU in 2014. However, it is a challenge for the country as water management and governance is under-funded and many key technical institutions depend on support from the donor community.

Implementation of the WFD is demanding both financially and technically. It is a challenge for Ukraine, which has many competing priorities to reform its economy. A national water resource strategy is fundamental in linking together different aspects of water management and major principles of the WFD and IWRM. The strategy will bring together key water stakeholders, including industry, energy, agriculture and water supply. The lack of national planning can lead to a decoupling at the basin and national levels and an over-emphasis on basin objectives.

The objective of the EUWI+ project is to support six Eastern Neighbourhood countries, including Ukraine, in the water sector reforms at different stages and levels – basin, national and transboundary. Result 1 of EUWI+ will strengthen the legal and regulatory framework at all levels through support for national water legislation. The mapping out of legislation as presented by the Ukrainian approximation project was an excellent example of how such a challenging exercise could be prioritised and systematised. Result 2 will address the review and evaluation of monitoring, support in development of new RBMPs and management of data and information. Result 3 will help establish decision-making structures at the basin level.

Key stakeholders consulted during the kick-off missions

The project team has extensively assessed implementation status across each of three result areas in the six countries, in close consultation with the beneficiaries to establish project priorities and targets. The EUWI+ national kick-off meeting in Kyiv on 8 November 2016 presented the scope of the project and gathered reaction from a broad range of stakeholders such as representatives of ministries, agencies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and donor projects. One-on-one meetings with key stakeholders gathered information to form a baseline and identify country needs.

Table 9.3. Institutions and organisations taking part in the kick-off mission

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution/organisation</th>
<th>Meeting objective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR)</td>
<td>EUWI+ organisation and implementation in Ukraine, needs assessment and priorities for water sector reform. Re-establishing of the NPD platform in Ukraine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Department of Protection of Natural Resources</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Department of International and European Integration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Agency of Water Resources</td>
<td>EUWI+ implementation in Ukraine needs assessment and priorities for water sector reform.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dnipro River Basin Authority</td>
<td>Needs assessment for river basin planning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Regional Development, Construction and Housing and Communal Services</td>
<td>Needs assessment in the field of implementation of principles of the Urban Wastewater Directive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institution/organisation</td>
<td>Meeting objective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture Policy</td>
<td>Inclusive intersectoral co-operation platform, river basin planning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The State Emergency Service, Hydrometeorological Service, Central Geophysical Observatory</td>
<td>EUWI+ implementation in Ukraine, needs assessment for data and information management.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Service of Geology and mineral resources and SE “Geoinform”, State Geological Company</td>
<td>EUWI+ implementation in Ukraine, needs assessment for data and information management.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Statistics Service</td>
<td>EUWI+ implementation in Ukraine, needs assessment for data and information management.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Ecological Academy</td>
<td>EUWI+ implementation in Ukraine, inclusive co-operation through NPD, long-term sustainability of project results.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aarhus Centre</td>
<td>EUWI+ implementation in Ukraine, inclusive cooperation through NPD, long-term sustainability of project results.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpathian National Nature Park</td>
<td>EUWI+ implementation in Ukraine, inclusive co-operation through NPD, long-term sustainability of project results and civil society involvement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO «MAMA 86»</td>
<td>EUWI+ implementation in Ukraine, inclusive co-operation through NPD, long-term sustainability of project results and civil society involvement.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The project team also met the EU Delegation in Ukraine, UNDP and OSCE offices, international projects UNDP/GEF and APENA.

These missions resulted in a comprehensive list of priorities compiled by national partners. Based on priorities identified during the meetings and follow-up consultations, the project team developed a matrix that assessed all identified needs. It then turned these needs into specific activities in a country work plan.

**Overview of the inception phase findings**

The project team has extensively assessed the implementation status across each of the three result areas in the six countries, in close consultation with the beneficiaries to establish project priorities and targets.

The implementing partners recognised that strengthening water governance in the countries was a long-term task that would transcend the timeframe of a single project. Any achievement must lay down foundations for subsequent developments in the project design. All countries adopted a structured, incremental approach, building towards implementation or approximation of the WFD at the heart of all their strategies. The country work plans address all elements – legal and policy development, institutional reform, capacity building, investment and implementation – in a coherent manner. In this way, no one single element over-runs another. Instead, they are linked and move forward together and in synchrony. The need for any water governance system to be affordable in the medium and long term has been of prime concern for the design. Any system also needs flexibility to adjust to ever-changing political and economic circumstances.
To help establish the legal and institutional framework, the WFD the project will do the following:

- Help establish primary legislation for implementation or approximation of the WFD and secondary legislation for its technical application.
- Help develop strategies for WFD implementation in the short to medium term based on affordability and cost effectiveness.
- Help countries meet their obligations under Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) such as the Water Convention.
- Improve capacity of the main laboratories to comply with monitoring requirements of the WFD and obtain enhanced accreditation at national and international level.
- Enhance capacity in ecological and biological monitoring, including development of Ecological Status Classification Systems for upper and lower catchments and coastal zones.
- Strengthen monitoring systems for both surface (SW) and groundwater (GW), and water quantity and quality.
- Increase capacity in RBMP in accordance with the WFD including in Associated Agreement countries’ maximum coverage of the first cycle of plans.
- Create mechanisms within the planning procedure for maximum integration of water sectors and uses with emphasis on the Flood, Nitrates, UWWT and Habitat directives.
- Establish institutions for the elaboration and implementation of RBMP at the national and basin level.
- Establish public consultation procedure in RBM Planning in pilot basins.

The project will, in the delivery of the above, help the countries move towards their selected goals and agendas in a constructive fashion and in a manner tailored to their political and economic landscapes. The specific progress/target indicators under the EUWI+ project for Ukraine are provided in Table 9.4.

**Table 9.4. Baseline and targets for key indicators to be addressed by EUWI+ for Ukraine (progress indicators)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Status (2016)</th>
<th>Target/Progress (2020)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overall national indicators</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inclusive platforms created/revived to support water sector reforms and stakeholder participation in water governance</td>
<td>National Policy Dialogue (NPD) to be revived. Water co-ordination and co-operation platforms at national/regional/basin levels have not become an established practice yet.</td>
<td>NPD has become an established practice with strong political ownership.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progress towards achievement of water-related SDG 6 “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”</td>
<td>On track. No specific country indicators developed yet.</td>
<td>Country indicators established. Ad hoc methodological support in monitoring the progress towards achievement provided. Provided a regional exchange on common challenges and lessons learned.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicators</td>
<td>Status (2016)</td>
<td>Target/Progress (2020)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Water Strategy serves as a key guiding policy document for the water sector</td>
<td>Water strategy needs to be developed along with the conceptual vision of the policy paper for the water sector reform.</td>
<td>A strategic water policy framework fully reflects and supports implementation of the reform and meeting the commitments by Ukraine under the Association Agreement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Implementation of major principles of EU water acquis</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved water allocation rules and planning</td>
<td>The rules and practices need to be updated.</td>
<td>The rules and practices updated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic instruments (like appropriate tariff setting) are being applied in water management</td>
<td>Water costs recovery (including environmental and resource costs) is partial (operating and monitoring costs).</td>
<td>Reform implementation started.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of an RBMP for the whole Dnipro River Basin in line with the WFD principles</td>
<td>Review and assessment of strategy.</td>
<td>Developed first generation Dnipro RBMP in line with WFD principles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of monitoring programme in Dnipro basin in line with WFD principles</td>
<td>Ukraine has several public laboratories involved in water quality monitoring. To date, some have not been visited by the EUWI+ team, especially regional and local laboratories. Therefore, the first phase of project implementation will assess which laboratories will be assigned to be part of the project and get technical support. It was clarified to give maximum support to development of WFD-compliant RBMPs and only limited support to strengthening of monitoring programmes. However some support will be provided to the groundwater systems and selected laboratories.</td>
<td>Monitoring network and systems assessed. Training plan developed. Personnel trained in WFD-relevant monitoring methodologies and ecological assessment and training material available. GW and SW monitoring programme improved towards WFD principles. Biological monitoring improved towards WFD principles. GW monitoring network upgraded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support to laboratories analysis: quality management, training and equipment</td>
<td>Different national, regional, local laboratories, as well as in River Basin Districts, are monitoring water quality for a limited number of WFD relevant parameters. They are holding a national accreditation. The most advanced seems to be the Odessa laboratory, which has not been visited by EU MS experts yet.</td>
<td>Laboratories assessed, including Odessa. Training plan developed. Personnel in WFD-relevant monitoring methodologies, QA/QC and accreditation topics trained and training material available. Existing/new laboratory equipment/infrastructure installed; selected laboratory (ies) prepared for international accreditation. Laboratories participated in proficiency testing schemes for selected WFD-relevant groups of parameters. Study visit to EU MS laboratories for lab personnel carried out.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Needs for capacity development and regional activities</th>
<th>Status (2016)</th>
<th>Target/Progress (2020)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Training programme for RBMP capacity strengthening</td>
<td>The Association Agreement with EU gives time-dated objectives to Ukraine concerning water management</td>
<td>Training programme established and implemented.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPIRB pilot RBMP refined, and implementation of selected measures</td>
<td>Two EPIRB pilot RBMPs: Prut and Upper Dnipro, not yet adopted. Some measures are already being implemented in the basins.</td>
<td>Assessment report of WFD compliance of Upper Dnipro and Prut RBMPs to identify improvements for future RBMP development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New pilot RBMP in place</td>
<td>The Association Agreement with EU gives time-dated objectives to Ukraine concerning RBMP.</td>
<td>First generation Dnipro RBMP in line with the WFD principles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National guidelines established</td>
<td>EPIRB project has already prepared guidelines.</td>
<td>Updated and new national guidelines to be in coherence with the Ukrainian context.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of a Prut umbrella plan supported</td>
<td>Efforts already engaged for Prut basin with ICPDR practices.</td>
<td>Prut: Governance implemented (transboundary working and thematic groups), at least two annual meetings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthening of the Dnipro Information System and development of the national Water Information System</td>
<td>Numerous data producers.</td>
<td>Recommendations report about strengthening data management at national and Dnipro basin levels.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procedure and tool for evaluating PoM’s implementation progress in place.</td>
<td>Low follow-up of the PoM’s implementation</td>
<td>Dashboard or other tool; procedure guidelines.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Lessons learned are regularly collected, shared and communicated to stakeholders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Communication strategy is in place at basin, national and regional scale to share and communicate efficiently to main interested parties and the wider public</th>
<th>Communication strategies have been developed in the EPIRB project pilot basins and partially implemented. There is no established communication strategy or campaigns at national scale on RBMP implementation.</th>
<th>Communication strategy developed including consistent tested actions at different scales to support NPD and RBM Planning implementation. Mechanism for sharing information and communication between Result 1 and Result 2 established (e.g. web-based information exchange platform).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evidence of use of communication tools developed and implemented</td>
<td>Communication tools have been developed in the EPIRB project pilot basins and partially implemented.</td>
<td>Basin- and country-wide implementation of communication tools (awareness-raising events, information materials, websites, press releases, social media, E-learning, workshops) at basin, national and regional scale.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number and audience of targeted communication actions in line with the strategy implemented</td>
<td>The prevailing situation in 2017 in the water sector as investigated during the early implementation phase.</td>
<td>Significant increase in targeted communication actions and audience for stakeholders’ involvement and public awareness raising on sound water resources management by the end of the project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicators</td>
<td>Status (2016)</td>
<td>Target/Progress (2020)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of national institutions and organisations using IWRM knowledge and lessons learned generated for research, planning and policy making</td>
<td>There are few forums for delivery of lessons learned at the national level and none at the basin level – the NPDs being an obvious example. Lessons learned are communicated, but not in a consistent and targeted manner.</td>
<td>Appropriate mechanisms developed to share lessons learned efficiently among main interested parties and stakeholders to harmonise positions on strategic documents (RBMP, thematic and sectoral plans, methodologies, regulation). Significant increase of the ownership of strategic documents derived from water-related EU acquis, IWRM and MEAs by the end of the project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence of establishment of stakeholder participation mechanisms at basin, national and international levels</td>
<td>River Basin Councils (RBCs) established in the pilot basins within the framework of previous projects based on donor-driven process are not sustainable in the absence of perennial organisational and financial mechanisms. Key institutional stakeholders in the basin are being invited for discussions at each key stage of basin plan development, under the EPIRB project. Public participation and involvement remain limited.</td>
<td>Development of practices and progressive institutionalisation of stakeholder involvement mechanisms Sustainable consensus building mechanisms in place at the end of the project to harmonise positions on strategic documents among main interested parties and stakeholders at the three main scales will be worked out in the communication strategy.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Author’s own elaboration.

**Institutional development and sustainability**

The Action EUWI+ is built on lessons learned from several development initiatives of the EU in the water sector in Ukraine, primarily EUWI, EECCA and EPIRB.

As a key strategic element, EUWI+ helps Ukraine develop its relevant institutions towards sustainable structures for WFD-compliant management of its water resources. Ukraine has begun to restructure institutions responsible for the water sector, specifically the Ukraine Water Agency. In addition, Ukraine experts have reported that fluctuation of experts should not be underestimated in the Ukraine water sector, due to several factors, such as low salaries in state institutions. The project partners have agreed to focus on development of institutional sustainability in Ukraine’s water sector institutions to meet the country’s obligations for the Association Agreement.
9.2. Specific activities

Activity 1.1.1. Needs assessment and identification of priorities in the area of support on legislative, economic and RBM issues

Summary of status

Ukraine signed an Association Agreement (AA) with the EU in 2014. The EU-funded APENA project for 2015-18 is playing a leading role to help draft 23 legal and normative acts for harmonisation with six EU water directives. Needs assessment and identification of priorities were aimed at ensuring that all relevant activities of the EUWI+ project support implementation of commitments by Ukraine to fulfil the Association Agreement and achieve other relevant country targets, while not duplicating any activity of other organisations.

Face-to-face meetings with a broad range of national stakeholders and follow-up exchanges identified country priorities related to legislative, economic and RBM issues. Dedicated sessions at the 19-20 September 2016 joint high-level event of EPIRB and EUWI+ projects in Kyiv, Ukraine collected initial suggestions on country priorities. The delegation of Ukraine presented an overview of challenges in water resources management and outlined initial priority areas to be discussed in more detail during the inception phase of the EUWI+ project.

The EUWI+ national kick-off meeting in Kyiv on 8 November 2016 presented the scope of the project and gathered reaction from a broad range of stakeholders such as representatives of ministries, agencies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and donor projects. Meetings with key stakeholders followed to gather information for a baseline and to identify country needs. In January 2017, the National Focal Point of Ukraine provided the EUWI+ project team with an updated list of potential priority activities that further informed needs assessment. The EUWI+ project team prepared the draft national work plan, which was discussed in detail at the subsequent meetings with Ukrainian authorities in March 2017 (see Activity 1.1.2).

Objectives and deliverables

A key national work plan for Ukraine for the project was developed to outline activities and timeline for upcoming work on legislative and regulatory issues. It was based on needs assessment and priorities suggested by Ukraine to the EUWI+ project Steering Committee meeting of 15-16 May 2017 in Brussels for discussion and endorsement by its members. A summary national work plan for Ukraine in English and Ukrainian languages was sent to national authorities for comments in mid-March 2017. The full national work plan, part of this Inception Report, was sent to Ukrainian authorities in late April 2017 and discussed during the regional EUWI+ Steering Committee of 15-16 May 2017 in Brussels.
Methodology/Steps of implementation

To avoid overlap, the country Roadmap will not be separately produced from the country chapter of the Inception Report. All features of the Roadmap are provided in the country Gantt chart and in a matrix that analyses country priorities (see Annex C).

Responsibilities and required inputs

The work plan and milestones (Gantt Chart) provide a related overview at the end of this country chapter.

Dependencies and synergies

The EUWI+ project is expected to consistently seek synergies with other international initiatives and projects, especially APENA, SEIS II, EMBLAS II.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

All needs identified during the inception phase could not be implemented fully due to limited resources, time and phasing, and dependencies of different key activities. Therefore, the country was asked to make priorities so the project could implement the most urgent needs.

Activity 1.1.2. Organisation of NPD meetings and review of progress

Summary of status

The process of EUWI NPDs started in Ukraine in 2007. In 2007-10, several high-level NPD Steering Committee meetings were held to co-ordinate national water policy reforms. The NPD process, however, has been on hold since 2011.

In co-operation with the OECD and UNECE, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources re-established the NPD Steering Committee, which held its first meeting on 28 March 2017. The approach of the NPD process continues to be multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral. The Deputy Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine (MENR) chairs Steering Committee meetings, which are expected to take place twice a year. To ensure an inclusive approach to discussions related to policies and legal aspects of water management, participants from civil society organisations, parliamentarians, private sector and academia are regularly invited to participate in the NPD meetings.

Summary of main objectives

In Ukraine, the NPD Steering Committee was re-established during the inception phase and will play the role of the EUWI+ implementation mechanism. The EUWI+ implementing partners will report to the NPD Steering Committee meetings on their respective plans and activities in this country, including on RBMPs. The NPD meetings will support monitoring of the national work plan.
Methodology/Steps of implementation

Under the EUWI+ project, the OECD and UNECE organise at least one NPD Steering Committee meeting each year. The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources has received assistance to re-establish an NPD Steering Committee.

Agendas of NPD meetings will be prepared according to priorities identified in the country work plan. Summary records of each NPD meeting highlighting challenges, conclusions, next steps and responsibilities will be prepared. A first successful meeting with around 50 representatives of stakeholders, held in Kyiv on 28 March 2017, discussed national priorities and the work plan under the EUWI+ project. The next NPD Steering Committee meeting was expected to be held in autumn 2017.

Dependencies and synergies

The EUWI+ project will depend on the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, which is to initiate NPD meetings and to ensure participation of other relevant national stakeholders from ministries and agencies.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

National stakeholders are believed interested in attending regular NPD meetings to harmonise water policy. In 2009-10, interest in such co-ordination meetings decreased, but the EU Association Agreement provides a concrete framework and NPD meetings will play a clearer role.

Activity 1.1.3. Organisation of regional meetings and Project Steering Committee meetings

Summary of status

The EUWI+ project inception phase started in September 2016. To set the scene and to inform all key beneficiaries from six countries, a joint high-level event of EPIRB and EUWI+ projects was organised in Kyiv, Ukraine on 19-20 September 2016. Delegations from all six partner countries attended the meeting, including many deputy ministers.

Summary of main objectives

Regional EUWI meetings on specific topics will be organised annually for key stakeholders from six countries to facilitate exchange of experiences, lessons learned and address transboundary issues. At its first meeting, the work plan was to be adopted. Discussion at regional meetings will identify actions and next steps to achieve the agreed results highlighted in the work plan.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

The first project EUWI+ Steering Committee took place on 15-16 May 2017 in Brussels with two representatives from Ukraine attending. One of the main decisions expected was approval of the
Inception Report with national work plan. Relevant meeting materials and communication information in English will be produced for each meeting. The next regional EUWI+ Steering Committee meeting was expected in spring 2018 where the national work plan and the project logframe and indicators can be updated if necessary.

Dependencies and synergies

Success of regional meetings depends on availability of representatives of all six countries to participate and be prepared for discussions and decisions.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

Chairs of national NPD Steering Committees (normally deputy ministers) are expected to attend regional EUWI+ Steering Committee meetings. Finding a time suitable to all may be a challenge and bottleneck. Suitable replacements should be identified to attend when required.

Activity 1.1.4. Ad hoc support to national processes related to the adoption of law/regulations and implementation of RBMPs, national plans on harmonisation of legal and normative acts with the requirements of the WFD, IWRM and MEAs

Summary of status

The Water Code of 1995 sets the framework for water policy. The Code has been regularly amended, most importantly in late 2016 to comply with the EU Water Framework Directive. Ukraine signed an Association Agreement (AA) with EU in 2014 and the EU-funded APENA project is playing a leading role in helping with the legal and normative harmonisation process.

Summary of main objectives

The inception phase of EUWI+ put forward many policy issues where assistance from the international community/donors would be needed. After consultations with different stakeholders, Ukraine proposed seven priority actions under Result 1, some of which will be implemented by EUWI+ project (see Annex C for full list). Such actions can be grouped into the following areas:

- harmonisation of legislation in accordance to EU Association Agreement
- support to development of a long-term vision of water sector reforms
- further support for transboundary co-operation
- implementation of MEAs, primarily the Water Convention and its Protocol on Water and Health.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

To implement above-mentioned broader objectives, following steps will be taken:

- Implement relevant provisions of the EU Association Agreement, mostly by UNECE in close co-ordination with other donors, especially the APENA project. As first intervention in 2017, international expert assistance is planned to help draft two ministerial orders, respectively for
methodology of classification of surface water and groundwater bodies. Next interventions are to be identified and agreed in co-operation with the MENR.

- Develop a policy paper to provide vision for further policy developments as first stage in preparing the National Water Strategy.
- Develop the National Water Strategy, based on the long-term vision for sector reforms. Subject to agreement with the Ministry of Regional Development, the OECD may develop a sectoral strategic framework for wastewater collection and treatment reflecting the scale of the challenge in this important area. If developed, it will form a stand-alone chapter of the strategy. The OECD will support development of a sustainable economic mechanism to ensure water sector reforms in Ukraine can be implemented. This study is to inform the corresponding chapter of the future water strategy. The work will be started in the second half of the project.
- Revise the 2011 national targets under the UNECE-WHO/Europe Protocol on Water and Health, prepare implementation plan, review system for monitoring diseases related to water, prepare next national report on the execution of the implementation plan, support activities of the intergovernmental working group. Activity is closely linked to implementation of SDGs.
- Support implementation of the Dniester treaty with Moldova by organising bilateral exchange and joint planning of activities as a necessary preparatory stage in 2017 for upcoming GEF Dniestr project, involving UNECE among implementing partners.

Dependencies and synergies

The EUWI+ project is expected to consistently seek synergies with other international initiatives and projects, e.g. APENA, SEIS II, EMBLAS II. Under APENA project, tables of concordance and brief legal plans (list of secondary acts) for all six water directives are produced. In its legal assistance, EUWI+ project must follow the same format to avoid any duplication.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

The NPD needs to adopt the high-level policy paper for the National Water Strategy to allow the subsequent work packages to progress.

Activity 1.2.1. Needs assessment and identification of priorities in the area of capacity development

Summary of status

Recent technical assistance projects have expanded the human and technical capacity of within the water sector. This presents an opportunity to bring this expertise together and strengthen it further.

Summary of main objectives

Based on the needs assessment, potential priorities for capacity development have been identified. They will help achieve long-term sustainability of the EUWI+ results and more efficient decision making in the water sector.
Methodology/Steps of implementation

Face-to-face meetings with a broad range of national stakeholders and follow-up exchanges identified priorities in capacity development.

The EUWI+ national kick-off meeting in Kyiv on 8 November 2016 presented the scope of the project and gathered reaction from a broad range of stakeholders such as representatives of ministries, agencies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and donor projects. At this stage, specific capacity development needs were not identified. Meetings with key stakeholders gathered information to prepare a baseline and identify country needs.

With a general move towards regionalisation, more trainings at basin/regional level may be needed than at national/central government level. Several countries of the region, including Ukraine, identified priority areas:

- Workshop on challenges and obstacles emerging while developing national water strategies.
- Provision of training on development and application of water allocation plans for national levels. The OECD could deliver regional training on approaches to develop national water allocation priorities, as well as application of their rules when developing water allocation plans at the basin level.
- Training to strengthen monitoring of implementation of Protocol on Water and Health to the UNECE Water Convention.
- Training to strengthen monitoring of the progress with water-related SDG 6.
- Regional workshop on available methodologies for ecological/environmental flow in rivers.
- Capacity development events to strengthen the knowledge base for co-operative water management.

Dependencies and synergies

The EUWI+ project will consistently seek synergies with other international initiatives and projects, providing training and capacity development assistance.

Several common themes emerged during the inception missions that would be well served through regional training opportunities for interested countries.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

Identification and availability of key staff to attend trainings: the number of people dealing with water management at central/national level is limited, and they are often overloaded with daily tasks.
Activity 1.2.2. Organisation of trainings

Summary of status

Established academic institutions and vocational training centres are providing courses/trainings on issues related to water resources management. In addition, Ukraine has a diverse donor community and international projects, and many international projects have been providing trainings for water managers over many years. While training opportunities are often not lacking, the water sector has limited human resources (head count). Therefore, any intended training needs to be well planned and targeted.

Summary of main objectives

- Ensure long-term sustainability of project results in local capacity development, some trainings will be implemented in partnership with distinguished local training institutions, including universities, research institutes and well-established water non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Part A presents a regional training plan based on the needs assessment.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

Implementation will include strengthening preparedness and capacity to assess interactions and trade-offs between sectors and to identify solutions. This will require training and awareness on issues including allocation planning and the use of economic instruments. The knowledge base to support transboundary co-operation needs further strengthening with awareness of the benefits of sharing and efficient water allocation key features. In addition, need may arise to bring certain key national experts/officials to specific trainings or workshops organised by project partners outside Ukraine.

Long-term sustainability of any training modules, webinars and materials will be guaranteed as the Academy belongs to the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources with a clear mandate for such trainings. Other partners will be considered for specific ad hoc trainings on narrowly specialised fields if key beneficiaries of the EUWI+ project make such requests.

Dependencies and synergies

It is assumed that Ukraine could benefit from regional training activities in conjunction with the other five EaP countries.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

None.
Activity 2.1.1. Assessment of monitoring and laboratory infrastructure, capacities and needs

Summary of status

Discussions with experts, a first visit to laboratories during the inception phase and a distributed questionnaire and results from the previous EPIRB project all helped indicate status.

Ukraine has several public laboratories involved in water quality monitoring, contributing to work on river basins as well as on a national level. To date, the EUWI+ team has not visited some of them, especially regional and local laboratories. Therefore, the first phase of project implementation will be to decide with the beneficiary which laboratory or laboratories will be part of the project and get technical support. Several criteria will apply for decision making, such as capacities, practice in WFD-related water analysis and status of accreditation.

It was clarified that project will give maximum support to develop WFD-compliant RBMPs and limited support for strengthening monitoring programmes. However, it will provide some support to groundwater systems and selected laboratories.

Summary of main objectives

- Identify gaps between the laboratory and monitoring situation in the Dnipro basin against the needs of the WFD.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

- Jointly evaluate available strategies, methodologies, procedures and guidance for monitoring and laboratory analysis, considering also the EPIRB achievements.
- Jointly assess groundwater (GW) and surface water (SW) monitoring activities in the Dnipro basin (e.g. network design, sampling, parameters) in close relation to the outcome under Activity 2.3.1 concerning typology, water body delineation and pressures.
- Conduct visits and in-depth assessment of each selected laboratory considering staff capacities, infrastructure, testing and sampling methods, equipment, status of accreditation and training needs. The national co-ordinator will accompany the missions.

Dependencies and synergies

- Responsibilities are defined within the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers on State Water Monitoring (under APENA project). EUWI+ is willing to be involved in the drafting process by commenting.
- Recommended laboratories for in-depth assessment:
  - Groundwater quality: State Agency of Geology.
  - Physico-chemistry elements: Hydrometeorological Institute in Kyiv, Lutsk and Svitlovotsk.
  - Hydrobiology: Hydrometeorological Institute in Kyiv.
  - Hydromorphology: Hydrometeorological Institute in Kyiv, Stryi (western Ukraine).
Priority substances: State Agency on Water Resource labs in Vysghorod and Slaviansk\(^{12}\) (have potential for upgrade). The MENR Order on “Approving the List of Priority Substances” is defining the scope.

Ukraine also provided extensive information on the country’s laboratories’ capacity (in Ukrainian language). Information was collected from all respective agencies (SWA, State Hydrometeorological Service, State Ecological Inspection, State Geosurvey Service, State Emergency Service, Ministry of Health). It should be assessed according to requirements of the WFD. Recommendations on laboratory system development should be provided to ensure the system complies with the WFD.

Conclusions and main objectives from this activity are in a further step either tackled under training Activity 2.2.1 or under Activity 2.1.2 where equipment is purchased.

**Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks**

- Full commitment of beneficiary; availability and completeness of relevant information; alignment of involved institutions and focus on WFD implementation.
- Within the inception phase it was clarified to give maximum support to the development of WFD-compliant RBMPs and only limited support to the strengthening of monitoring programmes. However, some support will be provided to the GW systems.

**Activity 2.1.2. Purchase of equipment, including hydrological and water quality monitoring stations and rehabilitation and upgrade of existing equipment and existing laboratories**

**Summary of status**

Water monitoring programmes need strengthening. GW and SW monitoring are operational, but not fully WFD-compliant. Also, the analytical capacity is not fully WFD-compliant, particularly regarding hazardous substances. Some equipment needs modernisation.

**Summary of main objectives**

- Implement upgrade and development plan for monitoring and laboratories including:

  - Jointly agreed list of monitoring and laboratory infrastructure, practical equipment and consumables needed and ranked according to priority in enabling the achievement of identified objectives under Activities 2.1.3, 2.3.2 and 2.3.4, particularly to further achieving compliance with the WFD and its daughter directive requirements for tendering and purchase under Activity 2.1.2.
  - Description of staff capacities including job specifications needed for sustainable operation of monitoring and each selected laboratory, considering available and newly purchased equipment and new methods. Identification of additional staff needed will be addressed under Result 1.

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\(^{12}\) As Slaviansk is in Donbas region, the assessment can only be made remotely (e.g. questionnaire) and there will be no follow-up of this laboratory within the project.
- Amendments needed in terms of procedures and training of staff, considering available and newly purchased equipment and new methods. The identified needs will be addressed in the form of trainings under Activity 2.2.1.

- Deliver, install and hand over appropriate equipment, infrastructure and consumables as defined and agreed in the upgrade and development plan.

- Assure analytical service by fulfilling requirements of ISO/IEC 17025 in terms of availability of maintained equipment and availability of necessary infrastructure.

- Train staff and issue training certificates by the manufacturer (where applicable).

- Enhance analytical capabilities over the long term.

- Strengthen GW and SW monitoring programmes in selected areas/sub-basins of the Dnipro basin towards WFD compliance.

**Methodology/Steps of implementation**

- Identify any relevant national procedures, such as customs clearance and procurement of equipment in full compliance with the legal requirements and rules applicable to this contract.

- Jointly elaborate tender dossier for the agreed list of infrastructure, equipment and consumables and submission to the official journal.

- Evaluate and document bids, identify best offer; assign and contract.

- Rehabilitate upgrade and enhance monitoring sites, equipment and laboratories, following the respective upgrade and development.

- Install monitoring sites and equipment and training of staff on the equipment, acceptance procedure, compliance with specifications, approval and documentation.

**Dependencies and synergies**

- WFD compliance of GW and SW monitoring and laboratories is subject to comprehensive check under Activity 2.1.1.

**Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks**

- The project must ensure technical specifications are not tailored to a specific product; free and independent procurement must be safeguarded.

- Sustainability of investments in equipment depends on long-term coverage of financial means for maintenance and consumables.

**Activity 2.1.3. Technical support to laboratories for accreditation**

**Summary of status**

- Chemical laboratories involved in water quality monitoring visited during the inception phase, i.e. Central Laboratory of the State Enterprise Ukraine Geological Company; Hydro
chemical laboratory under the Central Geophysical Observatory of the SHS; central laboratory for Chemical Control of Dnipro Basin Water Resources Management Directorate (Vyshgorod). They mainly hold national accreditation for different WFD-relevant groups of parameters.

- Planning highly depends on the outcome of Activity 2.1.1 (where the laboratories equipment and capacities are assessed in depth) and upon equipment purchased under Activity 2.1.2.
- Detailed planning also depends on the outcome of Activity 2.1.1 (where laboratories’ compliance with technical and management requirements of the international standard EN ISO/IEC 17025 (general requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories) is assessed as basis for support towards accreditation.
- The level of support also depends on the available equipment and those which are purchased/upgraded/refurbished under Activity 2.1.2.

Summary of main objectives

- Support the laboratory/ies in preparation for laboratory accreditation according to the requirements of international standard EN ISO/IEC 17025 at the National Accreditation Agency of Ukraine (NAAU).
- Conduct a pre-audit assessment report to reveal degree of compliance with the requirements of the ISO/IEC 17025 standard.
- Conduct study visits.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

- Clarify accreditation procedure, costs and timeline with the national accreditation body.
- Develop appropriate quality management documentation.
- Develop and validate method for selected WFD-relevant parameters.
- Hold trainings of the principles and requirements of the EN ISO/IEC 17025 standard.
- Tailor technical trainings and trainings of selected management aspects, e.g. audit seminar for QM staff.
- Participate in proficiency testing schemes in water analysis for selected groups of parameters as external quality control measure to prove the performance of the involved laboratories.
- Conduct study visit to selected laboratories and administrative bodies of the consortium partners to demonstrate all aspects of accreditation and their implications in routine day-to-day practice.
- Undertake pre-audit assessment to reveal degree of compliance with requirements of the ISO/IEC 17025 standard.

Dependencies and synergies

The detailed planning of this activity depends on the outcome of Activities 2.1.1 and 2.1.2.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

- Due to focus on development of RBMPs for the Dnipro, only limited support is possible.
- Provision of technical support depends on the equipment that will be purchased under Activity 2.1.2, which brings up whether the investment is sustainable.
- Laboratory staff need to be available and motivated to actively continue the required working steps between the missions in a partly independent manner.
- Training on methodologies for analysing certain parameters needs a corresponding legal basis for the monitoring of the addressed substances.

**Activity 2.2.1. Preparation of training plans and organisation of hands-on trainings and training of trainers with regard to monitoring and laboratory analyses and to support laboratories for accreditation**

**Summary of status**

Though relevant and responsible experts in the administrative bodies were involved in implementation of the EPIRB project, national contracted experts did most of the work. The national administration has limited capacity on its own to accomplish or extend the WFD implementation on to further river basins. Administrative bodies need capacity strengthening through intensive direct hands-on training to be independent and achieve some sustainability.

**Summary of main objectives**

- Create a critical mass of qualified staff that can continue independently the development and maintenance of the water monitoring and laboratory analysis in line with WFD requirements.
- Ensure qualified staff can further train national experts and increase the mass and capacity of qualified staff.
- Base training plans on upgrade and development plans defined under Activity 2.1.2.
- Ensure training documents are available and fit for use after the project ends.

**Methodology/Steps of implementation**

Administrative bodies need capacity building to ensure sustainability. Trainings will be based on the situation and achievements in the EPIRB pilot basin and be expanded to the whole Dniipro basin. Training considers all WFD-relevant aspects of GW, SW, quantitative, chemical, hydromorphological and biological monitoring.

- Jointly develop training plans, competence profiles and training targets that are derived from needs identified under Activities 2.1.1, 2.1.3 and 2.3.1 and the upgrade and development plans defined under Activity 2.1.2. The plans compile and co-ordinate the single training aspects throughout the project and will be adopted according to implementation progress and needs identified throughout the project’s phase.
- Revise and prepare corresponding training material.
- Provide intensive direct hands-on training on:
  - monitoring design (including network, parameters, frequency, etc.) and management
  - sampling of quantitative, chemical and biological indicators and assessment of hydromorphology in close connection with Activities 2.3.4 and 2.3.5
use, calibrate and maintain equipment and infrastructure for sampling, monitoring and laboratory analyses
- new methodology for environmental flows
- evaluation of monitoring results and link to RBMPs
- exchanging experience and trainings for selected topics of the EN ISO/IEC 17025 standard for laboratory accreditation
- preparation of strategies, road maps, guidance and templates.

Dependencies and synergies

- Experts with background on hydrogeology and hydrobiology and sound technical and practical knowledge of WFD should be assigned and allocated by the national administration. The number of needed staff and the degree of involvement will be identified within the assessment phase.
- If needed, the national administration should recruit junior experts and build up competencies and skills during the project.
- The Hydrobiology Institute (Academy of Science) helps establish reference conditions for ESCS development and being a centre of excellence for staff training.
- The Ukrainian administration could consider additional training centres for further aspects, following the laboratory and monitoring assessment under Activity 2.1.1.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

- Administrative staff need to be available and motivated to attend trainings and implement the required working steps between the training sessions in a partly independent manner.
- Capacities, and national funds and logistics are sufficient.
- Long-term assignment of respective staff is a precondition to sustainability of capacities.

Activity 2.3.1. Assessment of the needs and identification of priorities in implementation of the RBMPs

Summary of status

During the EPIRB project, there were two pilot RBMPs prepared in Ukraine for the main river courses area of the Upper Dnipro and Prut River Basins based on WFD requirements. The EPIRB pilot RBMPs have not yet been adopted.

The technical elements of RBMP elaboration have been developed and implemented in the Upper Dnipro and the Prut pilot basins under EPIRB for SW and GW. GWB delineation was only done for the Prut basin (4 GWBs) and mainly by consultants and national experts under the project. There was limited involvement of the beneficiary. Further training on GW delineation and a road map is requested. In the EPIRB pilot basins, SWBs were delineated according to WFD system A. Transfer to system B is needed. Also, a registry of rivers and lakes > 10 km² is needed. Many of these still do not
have names. As part of EPIRB, the Water Agency delineated the Pripyat basin and developed a system B system to be applied nationally. This study should be reviewed.

The following main information has been expressed regarding this activity:

- The nine RBDs of Ukraine are mentioned in the new amendment of the water law, and an official map has been prepared. Other organisational schemes to co-ordinate action at basin level through RBMPs are being elaborated.
- An institutional reform is under preparation to reorganise and adapt the water resources management sector. It will address new tasks linked to development of RBMP and FRMP compliant with the WFD and FD and the wish to better separate administrative and commercial functions of water resources institutions.
- The MENR wants the project to support development of an RBMP compliant to the WFD for Dnipro district. With a catchment area 293 000 km² in Ukraine, Dnipro basin is the largest of the country. With 504 000 km² in total, this transboundary basin is shared with Belarus, which developed a first RBMP for the Upper Dnipro in the last EUWI phase; Belarus plans to work on their share of Pripyat.

This activity will align with the following identified country priority:

- Country priority "Result 2 - 1": The Dnipro River Basin (in full) is proposed to be selected as a pilot one. Its RBMP should consider outputs of EPIRB projects and GEF Dnipro projects.

**Summary of main objectives**

- Assess RBMP to identify gaps to learn for development of the whole Dnipro RBMP in light of the CMU Resolution “On Approving the Procedure for the Development of the River Basin Management Plans” and the WFD.

**Methodology/Steps of implementation**

For this activity, the MS experts’ team will proceed to the following:

- Review and assess in depth the methodologies/RBMPs and identification of compliance gaps in light of the CMU Resolution and WFD requirements, the governance regarding RBMP development and stakeholders’ involvement, human resources and training needs. The results will better guide the RBMP process at the Dnipro RBD scale.
- Assess and identify training needs to provide the most relevant methodological support, including capacity building on WFD implementation and RBMP preparation, and on-the-job training of authorities. Special attention will be paid to the most appropriate levels to target: national and/or regional and/or river basin levels.
- Prepare a training programme, focusing on on-the-job training; this support will be provided in a co-ordinated way for the different components and steps required for WFD implementation and with support of different activities of EUWI+ project.

**Dependencies and synergies**

The MS experts’ team will carefully ensure co-ordination and promote synergies with the following:

- Other parts of the project e.g. organisation of trainings under Activity 1.2.2, elaboration of RBMP under Activity 2.3.2, stakeholder involvement under Activity 3.1.2.
- Benefits gained through APENA transposition activities and workshops.

**Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks**

The content of RBMPs is tailored partly to the scope of this activity.

**Activity 2.3.2. Technical support in the elaboration and implementation of the pilot RBMPs**

**Figure 9.1. The planning cycle of the EU WFD and its consecutive implementation steps**
**Summary of status**

The priority of Ukraine is to meet its obligations under its Association Agreement with the EU, including those under the WFD. Among these obligations is analysis of the characteristics of River Basin Districts by 2020. This is an important step to prepare RBMPs, leading to consultations with the public and publication of the plans by 2024.

The project will support development of a WFD-compliant RBMP and implementation of the first steps for the whole Dnipro basin.

This activity will align with the following identified country priorities:

- Country priority "Result 2 – 3": To estimate capacities of the project and limited period of its activities (four years) for developing new RBMP for other river basins.
- Country priority "Result 2 - 1": The Dnipro River Basin (in full) is proposed for a pilot. Its RBMP should address outputs of EPIRB projects and GEF Dnipro projects.

**Summary of main objectives**

- Develop first generation Dnipro RBMP.
- Strengthen capacity in developing RBMPs to the other River Basin Districts according to MENR Order on “Identification of Sub-Basins and Water Management Units within the Established River Basin Districts”. This includes development of monitoring requirements using a bottom-up approach.
- National methodological guidelines tailored to the Ukrainian situation and needs.

The consortium team will provide technical support to elaborate model RBMPs under the competent authority and in line with agencies by implementing on-the-job training.
**Methodology/Steps of implementation**

**Development of Dnipro RBMP**

In light of the outcomes of Activity 2.3.1, the assessment of technical gaps of RBMPs will help improve approaches and methodologies towards developing a RBMP at Dnipro scale.

The EU MS experts’ team will support efforts of adapting the methodology to data availability and processing capacities for different steps of the planning process, in compliance with the WFD requirements: water bodies delineation; characterisation; pressure and impact analysis; monitoring network design in a bottom-up approach, until risk assessment, the register of protected areas and delineation of some of them.

Surface water bodies in the Dnipro basin will be delineated according to the WFD system: “A” for the whole Dnipro RBD, based on the expected MENR Order on “Methodology for the Delineation of surface and groundwater bodies”, excluding transitional and coastal waters.

The process of delineation of surface water bodies according to WFD system B (including pressures and impacts assessment) will begin at a specified sub-basin (to be identified at a later stage). The
The project will also support implementation of Heavy Modified Water Bodies designation methodology, namely designation tests that also include an economic analysis.

This will be used to support stakeholders’ participation (Activity 3.1.2) and synthesise elements in the form of main issues identification. Mainly, it will provide the basis to build the PoM for the Dnipro basin for the first RBMP cycle, focusing on main water issues and mobilising working groups to co-ordinate the work.

The main interests are to prove the concrete functionality of RBMPlanning, to involve stakeholders in complex and varied information synthesis, and to help thematic and sectoral plans stay consistent. From these different steps, the EU MS experts’ team will support preparation of the first generation of RBMP for Dnipro basin. This first generation will be revised and improved for each cycle as required in Article 13 of the WFD.

The level of detail will be risk-based and adapted to the significance of identified water management issues in the Dnipro basin, focusing on commonly agreed sub-basins/areas of high priority (e.g. due to significant abstractions and/or discharges and/or point and diffuse pressures (sources of pollution), intensive economic activities, sensitive uses and/or ecosystems, etc.).

The project will support competent authorities through intensive hands-on training and workshops, as well as drafting documents and providing comments for draft documents on the following:

- Setting-up governance for preparation of RBMP, organisation of regular co-ordination and consultation meetings with the main stakeholders and the wider public to facilitate further implementation of the RBMP.
- Characterisation of basin characterisation (WFD article 5) including: surface water and groundwater bodies delineation, characterisation and surface water typology, definition of reference conditions, pressures assessment, impact analysis, register of protected areas, baseline and prospective scenarios to integrate the trend of the main pressures, economic analysis (limited to water uses, cost recovery – WFD article 9).
- Strategy and principles for the design of monitoring programmes and networks (WFD article 8) and exemplary implementation in selected areas. Setting up the discussion on the setting of environmental objectives and establishment of a compliance regime for assessing water bodies status (surface water and groundwater; biological, chemical and quantitative status).
- Exploitation of all the achieved results within the project to build the first PoM.
- Public consultation procedures in line with the WFD to identify significant water management issues under Activity 3.1.2.

Supervision through learning-by-doing and provision of methodological support to the institutions most involved in operational management (State Agency for Water Resources of Ukraine, Regional Departments of Water Resources Management, Dnipro Basin Administration for Water Resources, etc.) and the basin council are the major points.
WFD implementation at a wide scale could be managed based on a set of technical working groups co-ordinated into a governance mechanism inspired by, and as much as possible connected to, the EU WGs of the CIS and the WGs of the ICPDR. Member State experience of applying different methodology will be used, too. Austria and France, for example, use an ad hoc task group to channel input of different bodies on concrete production objectives to co-ordinate different water agencies and/or regional authorities.

The development of several chapters of the RBMP might be supported under tendered contract with national partners and consultants approved by the beneficiary. The winning contractor will work closely with the planning unit of the beneficiary organisation in accordance with the detailed terms of reference. The MS experts’ team will provide technical and strategic support to both the contractor and the beneficiary in developing the compliance steps of the plan. Close collaboration between the MS experts’ team and national consultants will build national capacity to up-scale the planning process.

**Elaboration of national guidelines**

Using experience gathered with elaboration of specific methodologies adapted to Ukrainian context and national consultants coaching, the MS experts' team will develop national tailored guidance documents in line with the WFD. If necessary and in addition to available national guidelines, the guidance documents will include specific examples gained from basin experiences and stakeholder inquiries.

The guidelines will contain a portfolio of priority action cards to guide the different steps of planning process and implementation to help Ukrainian competent authorities.

**Dependencies and synergies**

Developing this activity, the MS experts’ team will carefully ensure co-ordination and promote synergies with the following:

- Activity 1.1.4. related to the National Water Strategy, especially wastewater chapter (which will shape mainly strategy).
- Strategies developed in other EaP countries, MS countries and in the EU CIS process.
- Ukrainian sectoral planning documents.
- Other international projects (APENA, EMBLAS, etc).

The draft MENR Order about River Basin Councils and CMU resolution about RBMP development steer the project.
Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

Staff from the Ukrainian administration must be mobilised quickly to steer this process with the support of MS experts. The input from local consultants will be defined after mobilisation of competencies and knowledge of Ukrainian institutions. This input will be optimised based on budget constraint.

The development of the plan needs to be accompanied by strengthened human capacities for sound RBMPlanning in Ukraine. It also requires proper stewardship of the basins through laboratories and monitoring programmes and systems underpinning the plan both at central and regional levels. These systems are seriously underfunded and even minimum requirements to establish WFD compliance are far beyond the sole resources this project. The key to success of this ambitious activity relies on clear understanding of the involvement of different Ukrainian institutions and synergies between different external contributions.

Activity 2.3.3. Technical support to the RBM institutions to tackle co-ordination in transboundary river basins

Summary of status

The comparison exercise of the Prut River RBMPs of Romania, Ukraine and Moldova prepared under EPIRB project showed that differences are substantial and fundamental. The composite RBMP would not be attainable without great effort. In terms of management, a single RBMP for this transboundary basin cannot be the final objective. Each country is responsible for the implementation of measures in its part of the basin to reach the common objective of good status.

This activity will be aligned with the following identified country priorities:

- Country priority "Result 2 - 1": The Dnipro River Basin (in full) is proposed as a pilot. Its RBMP should take into account the outputs of EPIRB projects and GEF Dnipro projects.

- Country priority "Result 2 - 2": (...) Work on the joint RBMPs with Moldova and Romania regarding the Prut River Basin, commenced during the EPIRB Project, should be continued.

Summary of main objectives

Most Ukrainian River Basin Districts are transboundary. Thus, competent authorities in charge of RBMPlanning need to master best practices to harmonise transboundary planning. The objectives of this harmonisation effort are the following:

- Consider the proper scale for river basin management – the river basin – even if transboundary basins may be more complex to manage than river basins exclusively within the national borders.
- Have a coherent approach and develop synergies with riparian countries for the planning process, and particularly for sharing objectives and for definition of the PoM.
- Take advantage of and valorise the respective countries' experiences regarding RBMP and implementation of the WFD to capitalise on this experience more effectively.
- Promote broader co-ordination between the countries.
- Promote co-ordination and data and information exchange to build broader trust between the riparian countries sharing river basins.

**Methodology/Steps of implementation**

The project will further support the transboundary harmonisation along ICPDR practices for the Prut basin and working groups for the Pripyat sub-basin. These tasks include the following:

- Assess RBMPPlan development on both sides of the border.
- Identify main transboundary issues.
- Strengthen transboundary working groups and conduct transboundary meetings.
- Organise exchange of practices with other European transboundary basins and connect Ukrainian experts to the ICPDR and CIS working groups.

**Dependencies and synergies**

Developing this activity, the MS experts’ team will carefully ensure co-ordination and promote synergies with:

- RBMP development activities in the six countries, especially Belarus and Moldova
- Activity 2.3.4 and 3.1.4.

**Activity 2.3.4.** Carry out biological, ecological, chemicals surveys as needed to develop and implement the RBMPs, including intercalibration exercise and organisation of joint field surveys in transboundary rivers

**Summary of status**

Transboundary monitoring (together with Moldova) only in Prut River. No other transboundary monitoring.

**Summary of main objectives**

- Ensure availability of sufficient monitoring data (gap filling) to allow for development of the Dniipro RBMP in terms of characterisation and pressure impact assessment (risk assessment) of SWBs and GWBs.
- Link biological monitoring experts from the region.

**Methodology/Steps of implementation**

- Develop monitoring schemes of field surveys and joint transboundary field surveys.
- Execute field surveys and joint transboundary surveys in SW and GW covering chemical (also priority substances), hydromorphological and relevant biological indicators in close adjustment with Activity 2.2.1, and related to development of ecological classification systems for Dniipro basin. Intensive hands-on training on:
  - sampling and monitoring of quantitative, chemical and biological indicators and in the assessment of hydromorphology
  - use, calibration, maintenance of equipment and infrastructure for sampling, on-site monitoring and logistics and sample treatment
  - evaluation of monitoring results.
- Joint development of monitoring schemes, survey manuals, organisation of the surveys, mission reports and evaluation.

Dependencies and synergies

- Synergies with Activity 2.2.1 (hands-on training) and Activity 2.1.3 (towards accreditation).
- Collaboration with other institutions also carrying out studies on the Dnipro.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

- Capacities, national funds and logistics are sufficient.
- Necessary additional equipment purchased under Activity 2.1.2 is in place.
- Focus on the integration of junior staff.

Activity 2.3.5. Investigatory monitoring of water bodies at risk of high pollution or related issues

Summary of main objectives

- Discover reasons for unknown exceedances, the unknown reasons for risk, the causes of failure of good status, or the magnitude and impacts of accidental pollution.
- Fill gaps of monitoring results for proper review/establishment of the PoM of the RBMPs.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

- Jointly identify sites and parameters subject to investigatory monitoring, depending on results of the pressure and risk assessments under Activity 2.3.2.
- Develop monitoring schemes, survey manuals, organisation of the surveys, mission reports and evaluation of the survey and the data gathered.

Dependencies and synergies

- The project will take place under the future monitoring system (Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers on State Water Monitoring).
- Results of the pressure and risk assessments under Activity 2.3.2.
Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

- The scope very much depends on the results of the pressure and risk assessments within the RBMP elaboration under Activity 2.3.2, the selected pollution cases, the substances concerned, and the sampling and laboratory equipment available.
- Necessary additional equipment purchased under Activity 2.1.2 is in place.
- Capacities and national funds and logistics are sufficient.

Activity 2.3.6. Development and strengthening of national databases on water-related issues and ensure compliance of data with SEIS principles for collection and sharing of data

Summary of status

The Law of Ukraine “On Protection of the Environment” (articles 20 and 22) envisages establishment of the State Environment Monitoring System (SEMS) and observations over the environment and level of pollution.

The Water Code (1995) expresses specific regulations concerning the exchange of data between various institutions. The Article 21 promotes the State Water monitoring with the purpose of providing, collecting, processing, storage and analysis of information about the status of waters.

The existing Water Information Systems are:

**State Environment Monitoring System (SEMS)**

The main goals of SEMS are provision of observations, collection, processing, transfer, storage and analysis of information about the state of the environment, prediction of its changes and development of scientifically grounded recommendations for the management decisions in the sphere of environment protection, rational use of natural resources and environmental safety.

**State Water Cadastre (SWC)**

State Water Cadastre includes data state accounting of surface water and groundwater, and state accounting of water use, which are systematized by water bodies and areas, catchment basins and seas, groundwater basins, water use areas, economic regions, administrative-territorial units and in Ukraine (“On Approval of the Procedure for maintaining the State Water Cadastre”, paragraph 4). The keeping of Cadastre is carried out using an automated information system. However, the legislation does not set terms of opening / closing information of SWC.

The Ukrainian Hydrometeorological Center (UkrHMC) ([http://www.meteo.gov.ua](http://www.meteo.gov.ua)) of the State Emergency Service (SES) ([http://www.mns.gov.ua](http://www.mns.gov.ua)) conducts the Surface water section of SWC according to the Presidential Decree of January 16, 2013 № 20/2013 «Some questions of State Emergency Service of Ukraine".
The State Agency of Water Resources (SAWR) (http://www.scwm.gov.ua) conducts the "Water use" section of SWC according to the Decree of the President of Ukraine of 13 April 2011 № 453/2011 «On the Regulation of the State Water Resources Agency of Ukraine».

The State Service for Geology and Mineral Resources (Geonadra) (http://www.geo.gov.ua) conducts the "Groundwater" section of SWC according to the Decree of the President of Ukraine from April 6, 2011 № 391/2011 «On the Regulation of the State Service of Geology and subsoil of Ukraine».

For coordination their activities, the SAWR, together with the UkrHMC and Geonadra creates the Interdepartmental Commission on the management of the SWC.

The State Committee of Statistics is consequently responsible for organizing the collected data of the whole responsible services for monitoring.

The Ministry of Construction, Architecture and Housing and Communal Services is responsible for managing data related to:

- Safe water of centralized water supply systems (content of pollutants, volumes of use)
- Waste water from municipal sewerage network (content of pollutants, volumes of discharge)
- Under-flooding of cities and village (hazardous ground water level rise).

The Information Analytical Centre of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources is a web-resource at the national level. Its structure is shown in Figure 12.3. The Internet address of the Information Analytical Centre of the Ministry of Ecology is: www.ecobank.org.ua.
Information from the environmental monitoring bodies is transferred in electronic format or as hard copy to the State Agencies of Natural Resources and the Environment within the timeframes given in the table. Such information is usually submitted in the form of bulletins, reports, reviews, summaries or descriptions.

**Summary of main objectives**

In absence of a specific request of the country to date on the transversal topic of data management, it is proposed that the project will do the following:

- Assess data management needs related to the scheme for the Dnipro River Management Plan.
- Recommend ways to strengthen the Dnipro Information System.
- Recommend ways to develop the national Water Information System to fulfil the information production objectives at national scale.

**Methodology/Steps of implementation**

An average of two missions of one expert per year, to be launched in response to needs, is reserved to develop the proposal of action.

Close co-ordination of data management issues of all international projects (APENA, EMBLAS-phase 2, EUWI+, SEIS, Flood Atlas PPRD-East 2, etc.) is envisaged.
Dependencies and synergies

Developing this activity, the MS experts’ team will carefully ensure co-ordination and promote synergies with the following:

- Activity 2.3.7. Establish a system for regular monitoring of implementation of the RBMPs’ PoM and support use of evidence-based data for policy making and review of RBMPs’ PoM.
- Activity 3.1.2. Organisation of exchanges in pilot projects to support public and stakeholder participation in the preparation, implementation, review and update of RBMPs developed under Result 2.
- The SEIS project.

Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks

Sound development of these activities requires the following:

- political will to organise water data sharing between institutions
- clear sharing of responsibilities and tasks between the various organisations involved in water data production/management and valorisation
- availability of online server with possibilities to install the necessary software
- availability of staff for technical management of the information system, and organisation of data exchange between institutions.

Activity 2.3.7. Establish a system for regular monitoring of the implementation of the RBMPs’ programme of measures and support use of evidence-based data for policy making and review of RBMPs’ programme of measures

Summary of status

To date in Ukraine, development of an integrated PoM in an RBMP has remained limited. Considering that this the core of IRWM, the project aims to address this gap right from the start, even if the PoM is not completed until the project ends.

Projects in different sectors are implementing water management measures with a poor sense of their influence or impact.

The EPIRB project for Ukraine concluded that the MENR can advocate the RBMPs at regional level and promote the incorporation of the PoM of the RBMP into the regional programmes of socio-economic development.

Summary of main objectives

To build a first vision of measures relevant for the RBMP implemented by different sectors, recommendations are needed for a first dashboard. This activity will be a first step to follow up and
consider implemented measures and their impacts on the water resources for better integration into the coming RBM Planning cycle and improvement of knowledge for sound decision making.

In this logic, the result will be used to develop PoMs of future RBMPs.

**Methodology/Steps of implementation**

This activity will develop indicators to monitor implementation of the PoM of the RBMPs and tools to support visualisation of monitoring results.

The implementation steps would be the following:

- Identify/develop appropriate indicators to monitor implementation of measures and validation.
- Analyse available indicators: gather national policy papers from the different sectors and identify measures implemented in the Prut River Basin; study the possibility to use work on the SDGs and to monitor implementation of water directives; develop practices to use socio-economic data to extrapolate quantified information about pressures; water resources status; etc.
- Propose a procedure and responsibilities for regularly evaluating implementation progress.

The experience gained will help develop the future PoM and its implementation monitoring in Dnipro River Basin District and other Ukrainian districts.

Actions will consist in trainings and desk support for settling the process of gathering indicators and linking indicators to decision making.

**Dependencies and synergies**

To optimise monitoring of PoM implementation, the activity will be closely connected to Activity 2.3.2 and 2.3.6. In this logic, different administrative bodies in charge of implementation should use existing and regularly updated database as much as possible to select indicators.

**Activity-specific assumptions; limitations; bottlenecks**

Consistency and synergy with regional programmes of socio-economic development will be sought.
**Activity 3.1.1. Development, regular update and implementation of a communication strategy for the project**

**Summary of status**

Communication and public awareness were developed with important support from previous technical assistance or institutional support projects in Ukraine. In this regard, close co-ordination with ongoing initiatives is required.

Following the EU integration process, the work of public authorities together with NGOs and relevant partners is increasingly integrated to support water sector reforms.

**Summary of main objectives**

Effective communication is essential for motivating and in-depth involvement of stakeholders in decisions and implementation. In addition, awareness raising is essential for adoption of good environmental practices by the different actors. In this regard, the communication strategy will target the following objectives to serve IWRM needs:

- Support policy process and influence specific policies or policy makers around key aspects of the IWRM.
- Encourage participation of key stakeholders to maintain good status of water resources.
- Build awareness on project objectives among the different water users groups.

**Methodology/Steps of implementation**

Establishing the communication strategy will continue to strengthen the ability of Ukraine in this field. It will be closely linked with supporting new legislation and national strategies, setting up the NPD (Result 1) and RBMP development and implementation (Result 2). It will be done in relation to the main players in this domain and partnering with the Aarhus Centre (now Environmental Information and Education Centre) where applicable.

Core activities underpinning the execution of public participation and communication strategies will include:

- assessing the main communication actions for participative RBMP planning
- developing and annually updating a communication and stakeholders’ engagement strategy to be co-ordinated at national and basin scales
- supporting implementation of the communication strategy directly in connection with the project.
Main communication tools:

- Develop and maintain a project website with a country page.
- Prepare and publish Information materials: leaflets on the national components (in English and Georgian), brochures on pilot demonstrations, project newsletter, press releases, media articles.
- Promote activities related to effective communication with targeted stakeholders and the public: communication campaigns, public events and activities (e.g. AQUA, Danube Day), school information sessions, conferences, seminars and workshops, roundtables and other events, press briefings or meetings with journalists.

Dependencies and synergies

This is a cross-cutting issue with many synergies at basin, national and transboundary levels with Activities under Results 1 and 2.

Development of data and information platform is to be done in link with “Water resources of Ukraine” geoportal (APENA project) and regional database on BS WQDB (EMBLAS II).

Activity 3.1.2. Organisation of exchanges in pilot projects to support public and stakeholder participation in the preparation, implementation, review and update of RBMPs developed under Result 2

Summary of status

According to the Water Code (new version), Ukrainian law establishes basin councils, key stakeholders must be involved in basin plan development and implementation. Some 11 basin councils were previously established. However, these institutions were driven by donors and were not sustainable beyond the project.

The Dnipro River Basin Council has been already mobilised, but its last meeting took place in 2009. In its initial format, participants didn’t feel part of planning, which harmed its sustainability.

Summary of main objectives

- Prepare elements and practical testing of implementation of provisions of Article 14 of the WFD on water users’ participation and public consultation.
- Support the MENR to co-ordinate national working groups and public consultation for developing among key interested parties a common understanding of RBMPlans and maintaining communication on actions in each river district.
- Support the Dnipro basin management organisation (DBUVR) to mobilise stakeholders to discuss each key stage of RBMP development.
Methodology/Steps of implementation

Setting up and possibly institutionalising a stakeholders’ involvement mechanism at different basin scales. This will include methodological and technical support to River Basin Councils¹³ (Dnipro River Basin Council), as well as organisation and facilitation of meetings with stakeholders to build consensus on shared objectives of RBMPs and PoM (public consultations).

Main activities will include the following:

- Assess mechanism to harmonise practices and share information and communication with practitioners involved in WFD implementation at basin scale.
- Identify and mobilise relevant stakeholders in the pilot basins to establish stakeholder dialogue at basin level:
  - Identify all socio-economic actors, general public and organisations that may engage in consultation.
- Develop mechanisms for stakeholders’ participation in development and implementation of the RBMPs:
  - Prepare consultation strategy in the pilot basins in line with the legal and administrative setup developed in Result 1.
  - Develop functioning rules for operational basin council (composition, consultation and decision making, role of the secretariat, etc.).
  - Hold training session and coaching on facilitation techniques for consultation workshops with selected stakeholders.
- Organise and facilitate meetings with stakeholders to build consensus on shared objectives of RBMPs and PoM:
  - Develop work plan and pre-identify main water issues.
  - Consult on programme of measures to tackle objectives and draft RBMP.
- Develop guidelines on public participation in relation with the WFD.

Dependencies and synergies

This is a cross-cutting issue with many synergies at basin and national levels with Activities 2.3.1, 2.3.2 and 2.3.6, but also with Result 1.

Close collaboration is requested with other projects and initiatives (e.g. GEF/UNDP Dnister project).

¹³ According to the MENR Order on “Approving the Model Regulation on River Basin Councils”.
Activity 3.1.3. Establishment of a mechanism to harmonise practices and share information and communication with practitioners involved in WFD implementation and/or IWRM in the six EaP countries

Summary of status

National working group for WFD implementation targeting the legislative reform has been set up with the EU project “Support to Ukraine in the approximation of the EU Environmental Acquis”. Several thematic working sub-groups have been established under line ministries/agencies in charge of different EU directives (e.g. the WFD working group under the State Water Agency).

Under the WFD, the RBMP will be developed in the recently defined nine districts of Ukraine. This work will be managed by 11 basin organisations (DBUVR) and involve local authorities from different line ministries. This requires important co-ordination at national scale that will be rolled out at basin scale.

Summary of main objectives

- Establish a mechanism to harmonise practices and share information and communication with practitioners involved in IWRM implementation at national level.

- Facilitate national technical thematic meetings to inform and mobilise stakeholders on the challenges of IWRM and to improve consistency of sectoral strategies regarding IWRM.

Methodology/Steps of implementation

- Develop and maintain the project website with data and information exchange platform.
- Assess mechanism to harmonise practices and share information and communication with practitioners involved in WFD implementation at national scale.
- Develop a mechanism for national technical harmonisation of methodologies and practice with ad hoc working groups. This mechanism will allow deepening and concretising the orientations made at the NPD meetings as outlined below.
- Consider the need to connect the Ukrainian organisation to the European working groups running since 2000 to work out the Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) for WFD implementation, as well as ICPDR working groups.

Main activities will include the following:

- Develop web-based information exchange platform to provide project results in relation to activities on data management and communication strategy.
- Support development of a working group for the national harmonisation of methodologies for IWRM and RBMP implementation.
- Support for facilitation of working groups including use of EU, French and other national guidance documents developed for the WFD to inspire development of the Ukrainian version.
- Develop and facilitate a specific working group on stakeholder involvement and communication.
- Prepare summary reports on events to consolidate and harmonise practices in the different basins, and list of participants.

**Dependencies and synergies**

This is a cross-cutting issue with many synergies at national and international levels with Activities 2.3.1, 2.3.2 and 2.3.6, but also with Result 1.

**Activity 3.1.4. Organisation of international events including study visits to harmonise practices and share information and communication on WFD implementation, IWRM and MEAs**

**Summary of main objectives**

- Promote and support harmonised practices with neighbouring countries (Belarus, Moldova in particular).
- Facilitate exchange of experience on WFD with practitioners involved in WFD implementation and/or IWRM in the six EaP countries and beyond with EU MS and Central Asia.

**Methodology/Steps of implementation**

- Assess experience in bilateral working groups to harmonise practices and international agreements in co-operation with Result 1.
- Develop a mechanism for discussion of harmonisation of water bodies delineation at the border involving local practitioners and contribute to concrete cross-border co-operation and synergies development on monitoring.
- Organise of international events (study visits, workshops, trainings) to harmonise practices and share information and communication on WFD implementation, IWRM and MEAs.
- Network and develop information exchange with relevant institutions and stakeholders.

- Support for ensuring participation of the basin organisations in international networks such as the International Network of Basin Organisations, etc.
- Organise and conduct twinning exchanges.

**Dependencies and synergies**

This activity has a strong link with Result 1 and 2, as well as Activities 3.1.1 and 3.1.3 (web-based information exchange platform).
9.3. Organisation and steering structure

Project registration

The registration of EUWI+ Result 2 and 3, i.e. the EU Member State grant contract, has begun in Ukraine. The progress of registration is not yet completed.

Project partners recognise that certified registration is a prerequisite for supply and service tenders in Ukraine as they will be required to pay VAT or import tariffs.

Regional-level arrangements

Regionally, a Project Steering Committee, consisting of six delegations of each EaP country, representatives of the international project partners and representatives of the European Union, is to be established. Its meeting structure and functions are well defined in the Description of Action (DoA) and are not repeated here.

The assigned members of the Regional Steering Committee for Ukraine are the assigned National Focal Point of the project and one additional member as decided by Ukraine.

National-level arrangements

Activity 1.1.2 in the national work plan describes the role of the national NPD Steering Committee as main oversight mechanism.

A National Executive Strategic Board has not formally been established. Its meeting structure and functions are well defined in the DoA and are not repeated here.

Mr Mykola Kuzio, Deputy Minister within the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, is acting as the National Focal Point (NFP) of Ukraine for the Action EUWI+.

Expert-level structures

The Ukraine and international partners have agreed to nominate lead thematic experts to streamline co-ordination and communication of the main thematic areas of expertise for implementation of the Action (Table 9.5).
### Table 9.5. Expert-level structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Result</th>
<th>International thematic lead expert</th>
<th>Ukraine thematic lead expert</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Result 1</td>
<td>OECD and UNECE Project Managers and Thematic Experts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R 2 Surface water monitoring</td>
<td>Robert Konecny (AT)</td>
<td>Nomination not completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R 2 Groundwater monitoring</td>
<td>Andreas Scheidleder (AT)</td>
<td>Nomination not completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R 2 Laboratories</td>
<td>Cristina Trimbacher (AT)</td>
<td>Nomination not completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R 2 RBMP</td>
<td>Philippe Seguin (FR)</td>
<td>Nomination not completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R 2 Data management</td>
<td>Paul Haener (FR)</td>
<td>Nomination not completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R 3 Communication</td>
<td>Yunona Videnina (FR)</td>
<td>Nomination not completed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Country Representatives

The aim and functions of Country Representatives are well defined in the DoA and are not repeated here.

The Country Representative of UNECE and OECD for Ukraine, who helps implement Result 1, is Ms. Nataliia Zakorchevna. Ms. Oksana Konovalenko is the Country Representative of the EU Member State Consortium for Ukraine, who helps implement Results 2 and 3.

#### Project offices

The EU Member State Consortium has established a project office in Kyiv, as foreseen in the DoA. It functions as the co-ordination and communication point for the three eastern countries, Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine. The address of the project office is Pushkinskaya str 31A Office 2, First floor, Kyiv, Ukraine.
### 9.4. Work plan and milestones for Ukraine (Gantt Chart)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Result / Activity</th>
<th>Responsible</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inception report</td>
<td>Project Team</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.1 Needs assessment and identification of priorities in the area of support on legislative, economic, and RBM issues</td>
<td>UNECE/OECD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.2 Organisation of NPD meetings and review of progress</td>
<td>UNECE/OECD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.3 Organisation of Regional Meetings and Project Steering Committee Meetings</td>
<td>OECD</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.4 Ad hoc support to national processes related to the adoption of legislation and implementation of RBMPs, national plans on harmonisation of legal and normative acts with the requirements of the WFD, IWRM and MEAs</td>
<td>UNECE/OECD</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1.1.5 Development of a Water Policy Paper</td>
<td>OECD</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1.1.6 Development of a National Water strategy</td>
<td>OECD</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.1.7 Revision of the 2011 national targets to the Protocol on Water and Health</td>
<td>UNECE</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.8 Development of the implementation plan for the Protocol on Water and Health</td>
<td>UNECE</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.9 Support to implementation of the Dniester treaty</td>
<td>UNECE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.10 Needs assessment and identification of priorities in the area of capacity development</td>
<td>UNECE/OECD</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 Preparation of training plans and organization of hands-on trainings and training of trainers with regard to monitoring and laboratory analyses and to support laboratories for accreditation</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.1 Assessment of monitoring and laboratory infrastructure, capacities and needs</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.2 Purchase of equipment, including hydrological and water quality monitoring stations and rehabilitation and upgrade of existing equipment and existing laboratories</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.3 Technical support to laboratories for accreditation</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.1 Preparation of training plans and organization of hands-on trainings and training of trainers with regard to monitoring and laboratory analyses and to support laboratories for accreditation</td>
<td>IOW/UBA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.2 Assessment of the needs and identification of priorities in implementation of the RBMPs</td>
<td>IOW/UBA</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.3 Technical Support in the elaboration and implementation of the pilot RBMPs</td>
<td>IOW/UBA</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2.2.4 Technical Support to the RBM institutions to tackle coordination in transboundary river basins</td>
<td>IOW</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.2.5 Carrying out biogical, ecological, chemical surveys as needed to develop and implement the RBMPs, including intercalibration and transboundary activities</td>
<td>UBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.2.6 Investigatory monitoring of water bodies at risk of high pollution or related issues</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2.2.7 Development and strengthening of national databases on water related issues &amp; ensure compliance of data with SEIS principles for collection and sharing of data</td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2.2.8 Establish a system for regular monitoring of the implementation of the RBMPs programme of measures &amp; Support the use of evidence-based data for policy making and review of RBMPs programme of measures</td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3.1.1 Development, regular update and implementation of a communication strategy for the project</td>
<td>IOW</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.2 Organisation of exchanges, pilot projects to support public and stakeholder participation in the preparation, implementation, review and update of RBMPs developed under result 2</td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.3 Establishment of a mechanism to harmonise practices and share information and communication with stakeholders involved in WFD implementation and/or IWRM in the 6 EaP countries</td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.4 Organisation of international events (IE), including study visits (SV) to harmonise practices and share information and communication on WFD implementation, IWRM and MEAs</td>
<td>IE</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
9.5. Risks and mitigation measures

The following risks have been identified as key for Ukraine for which specific mitigation measures are proposed:

Risk 1: Governments are unstable.

The project will continue building and maintaining contacts at a variety of political and administrative levels. This provides good continuity, even in the case of political changes (as was recently experienced in Ukraine). In the past, short-term political instabilities have not significantly disturbed longer-term co-operation. In addition, international co-operation and pressure, for example through EU Delegations, are strong driving forces for water policy reforms and the continuation of policy dialogue on this issue.

Risk 2: Reliable data for robust analytical work are not available.

The project team has accumulated experience in EaP countries to make the best use of existing data, to mobilise local expertise and to refer to expert knowledge when needed. Co-ordination with other projects (e.g. SEIS, APENA or UNDP/GEF) will provide opportunities to share data and identify common sets of indicators in areas of mutual interest.

Risk 3: Absorption capacity is not sufficient to implement the Action effectively.

Lessons learned from prior activities in the target sector in the EaP countries indicate that absorption capacity on national and/or local levels can be the main bottleneck for successful and sustainable implementation of this project.

First, absorption capacities can be limited due to the low number of experts (headcount) and by their know-how and experience (knowledge).

Second, absorption capacities can be limited because of high staff turnover, with knowledgeable experts leaving their positions, organisations or the sector.

Absorption capacities will be a constant element of national and Regional Steering Committee meetings and the NPD process. Close co-ordination with the multi-donor co-ordination units of the water sector in Ukraine will ensure to identify potential risks due to parallel activities in the sector. It should allow decisions on appropriate counter measures. Expertise by local consultants can help overcome potential bottlenecks.
Annexes

Annex A  Project Logframe

The logframe matrix should evolve during the project lifetime: new lines can be added for listing new activities as well as new columns for intermediary targets (milestones) when it is relevant and values will be regularly updated in the column foreseen for reporting purpose (see “current value”).

This version was updated by the project teams: End of October 2017 (Inception Report)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Results chain</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Baseline (2016)</th>
<th>Targets (2020)</th>
<th>Sources and means of verification</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improve the management of water resources, in particular of transboundary</td>
<td>Reform of institutional and legal frameworks</td>
<td>Improvements in the monitoring and planning as well as the management systems</td>
<td>6 countries developed and adopted a shared water management framework based on the WFD</td>
<td>Regular EU reviews on the approximation of the policy/regulation to the EU acquis.</td>
<td>The governments are engaged politically and financially in applying the river basins management approach, have sufficient technical/administrative capacity and move forward policy development in line with the EU acquis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>countries.</td>
<td></td>
<td>has been fragmentary and in the main donor led. The water governance frameworks</td>
<td>principles</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>are critically under-funded and have deteriorated. Delays in the schedule of</td>
<td>A better alignment of 6 countries with the EU water acquis according to specific</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>convergence with the EU WFD</td>
<td>country commitments and political context.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>A lack of strategic planning in terms of both water quantity and quality with</td>
<td>Convergence of water quantity and quality management, as well as ground and</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>little attention given to management concepts such as IWRM. River Basin</td>
<td>surface waters through use of river basin management and strategic planning</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Planning and management is in its infancy.</td>
<td>and,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Outdated Soviet era water allocation requires review and updating</td>
<td>Water allocation rules reflect protection of vulnerable groups, allocate water to</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>where it adds most value to the economy and drives water productivity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Overall objective: Impact

- Improve the management of water resources, in particular of transboundary rivers, in the Eastern Partnership countries.

- Reform of institutional and legal frameworks
- The pace of convergence with the EU acquis aligns with commitments
- Improved strategic planning and practices of river basin management have contributed to stabilise or decrease pressure on water resources.
- Frameworks facilitate robust water allocation reflecting socio-economic priorities

- Improvements in the monitoring and planning as well as the management systems has been fragmentary and in the main donor led. The water governance frameworks are critically under-funded and have deteriorated. Delays in the schedule of convergence with the EU WFD
- A lack of strategic planning in terms of both water quantity and quality with little attention given to management concepts such as IWRM. River Basin Planning and management is in its infancy.
- Outdated Soviet era water allocation requires review and updating

- 6 countries developed and adopted a shared water management framework based on the WFD principles
- A better alignment of 6 countries with the EU water acquis according to specific country commitments and political context.
- Convergence of water quantity and quality management, as well as ground and surface waters through use of river basin management and strategic planning and,
- Water allocation rules reflect protection of vulnerable groups, allocate water to where it adds most value to the economy and drives water productivity

- Regular EU reviews on the approximation of the policy/regulation to the EU acquis.
## Specific objective(s): Outcome(s)

### Improving management of water resources

- Development of River Basin Management Plans
- The water sector is equipped with the necessary human and technical capacity
- The water sector has an enabling legal and regulatory framework

### Results chain

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baseline (2016)</th>
<th>Targets (2020)</th>
<th>Sources and means of verification</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>An estimated 7.9 Million population living under river basin management planning processes</td>
<td>An estimated 38 Million population living under river basin management planning processes with associated improved quality of life</td>
<td>River Basin Management Plans developed</td>
<td>The governments are engaged politically and financially.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human and technical capacity requires strengthening in 6 countries</td>
<td>Human capacity strengthened in 6 countries through training programme</td>
<td>Capacity development programmes delivered and number of relevant attendees</td>
<td>Stability and continuity of governments and processes such as National Policy Dialogue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal and regulatory framework is fragmented in 6 countries</td>
<td>Technical capacity strengthened in 6 countries, for example through investment in laboratory equipment</td>
<td>Number of Technical institutions receiving investment and training</td>
<td>Relevant Staff are made available to attend and benefit capacity development</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Outcome 1: Legal and regulatory framework improved in line with the WFD, IWRM and MEAs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Baseline (2016)</th>
<th>Targets (2020)</th>
<th>Sources and means of verification</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Effective regulatory and governance arrangements are in place</td>
<td>Degree [extent] to which water-related EU Directives, IWRM principles, and provisions of relevant MEAs are transposed and reflected in the national legislation</td>
<td>Improved water allocation planning</td>
<td>Number of relevant policies, strategies and regulations submitted to and approved by Parliament/Ministries in each country that are in line with the EU WFD, IWRM, MEAs</td>
<td>Relevant government decisions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable technical capacity development created and embedded in partner institutes</td>
<td>Sustainable, targeted country specific capacity development embedded within institutions.</td>
<td>Number of national water allocation objectives/plans/strategies</td>
<td>Relevant Ministerial decisions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of developed and approved national water allocation objectives/plans/strategies</td>
<td>A transboundary treaty signed and/or a new one initiated, support provided for bilateral cooperation</td>
<td>Reports on state of transposition of EU acquis to EC by countries with AA</td>
<td>No major political, fiscal (budgetary) or economic crisis.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water allocation objectives and planning missing at the national level and integration with water quality objectives lacking. Limited knowledge of water resource sustainable</td>
<td>A transboundary cooperation agreement established and/or a new one initiated, support provided for bilateral cooperation</td>
<td>Notes/decisions from bilateral meetings on transboundary cooperation</td>
<td>Political readiness to embark on negotiations for transboundary agreements</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Results chain</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Baseline (2016)</th>
<th>Targets (2020)</th>
<th>Sources and means of verification</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>yields (GW and SW) based on ecological constraints and medium to long-term impact of climate change. One bilateral treaty on transboundary rivers signed and two being negotiated in the region. 4 NPDs established and delivering evidence based policy decisions. 1-2 key ministries sharing ownership and delivering cross-ministerial review of policy proposals at NPDs. Estimate average 30% gender representation at NPDs conducted in baseline year.</td>
<td>6 NPDs established and delivering evidence based policy decisions. 3-4 key ministries sharing ownership and delivering cross-ministerial review of policy proposals at NPDs. Target average 50% gender representation at NPDs conducted in final year of project.</td>
<td>6 of 6 EaP Governments making policy decisions against legal and regulatory frameworks harmonised with the EU acquis.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Results chain</td>
<td>Indicators</td>
<td>Baseline (2016)</td>
<td>Targets (2020)</td>
<td>Sources and means of verification</td>
<td>Assumptions</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Output</strong></td>
<td>Output 1.1: National and regional coordination mechanisms in place to support planning, approval and implementation of legal and regulatory framework in line with the WFD, IWRM and MEAs</td>
<td>Lack of coordination between the line Ministries and failure of official Water Councils to operate effectively. Sectoral plans not coordinated and weak strategic planning mechanisms. Fierce competition for funding (national and international) between management agencies and institutions deters cooperation and promotes project capture. NPD processes operational in 4 out of 6 countries.</td>
<td>NPD processes operational in all countries All stakeholders groups involved in decision-making Examples of Evidence-based recommendations submitted for approval</td>
<td>6 country chapters on needs assessment for legal/regulatory reforms &amp; country plans 6 NPD Steering Committee meetings and meeting reports per year 4 regional meetings and meeting reports Draft of laws, by-laws, regulations Reviews of existing policies, new national strategies Support to bilateral agreements in transboundary basins Ratification / implementation of MEAs</td>
<td>Political will within the government to establish stakeholder platforms at national and regional level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Activities</strong></td>
<td>A) Activities to strengthen water legislative framework in line with the WFD, IWRM and MEAs</td>
<td>Legislative framework improved in line with the WFD, IWRM and MEAs</td>
<td>A1) 1 of 6 Water Codes or Laws are harmonized with EU water related acquis A2) 3 of 6 countries expressed gaps in secondary legislation to support harmonization process of primary laws</td>
<td>A1) A minimum of 3 of 6 Water Codes or Laws will be reviewed, harmonised and revised in line with EU water related acquis A2) A minimum of 4 articles of secondary legislation will be revised or developed to support 3 countries that expressed gaps in secondary legislation to support harmonization process of primary laws</td>
<td>A1) Revised codes or laws submitted to NPD Steering Committees for approval A2) Revised codes or laws submitted to NPD Steering Committees for approval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Results chain</td>
<td>Indicators</td>
<td>Baseline (2016)</td>
<td>Targets (2020)</td>
<td>Sources and means of verification</td>
<td>Assumptions</td>
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<tr>
<td>B) Activities to improve/revise/harmonise institutional and regulatory frameworks in line with the WFD, IWRM and MEAs</td>
<td>Institutional and regulatory frameworks strengthened in line with the WFD, IWRM and MEAs</td>
<td>B1) 6 of 6 countries expressed gaps with regard to ratifying or implementing the Protocol on Water and Health. B2) 0 of 6 countries have robust regulatory frameworks. 5 specific regulatory gaps were identified during inception phase. B3) 6 or 6 countries expressed the need to develop transboundary cooperation or procedures through bilateral agreements, joint commissions or regular exchange.</td>
<td>B1) 6 of 6 countries have closed gaps with regard to ratifying and implementing the Protocol on Water and Health. This includes development or revision of national targets and an implementation roadmap where required. B2) A minimum of 5 policy packages will be developed for submission to relevant NPD meetings B3) 6 of 6 countries have demonstrated progress with regard to transboundary cooperation. 2 bilateral agreements progressed.</td>
<td>B1) 6 of 6 countries report progress with regard to ratifying or implementing the Protocol on Water and Health at relevant meetings. B2) A minimum of 5 policy packages developed and submitted for consideration to NPD Steering Committees B3) 6 of 6 countries have demonstrated progress with regard to transboundary cooperation. 2 bilateral agreements progressed (ratified, signed or developed further).</td>
<td>Political will of Governments of neighbouring countries to cooperate on transboundary basins.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C) Activities to develop/revise/harmonise water policy strategic frameworks</td>
<td>Water policy strategic frameworks developed/revised/harmonised</td>
<td>C1) 4 of 6 countries have no or an outdated national water strategy requiring review and harmonisation with the WFD, IWRM and MEAs</td>
<td>C1) 4 national strategies will be reviewed, consulted and submitted to the relevant NPD for approval</td>
<td>C1) 4 national strategies will be reviewed, consulted and submitted to the relevant NPD Steering Committees</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D) Activities targeted at improvement of stakeholder engagement</td>
<td>Stakeholder engagement improved</td>
<td>D1) 4 of 6 NPDs operational and active D2) 5 NPDs in EaP region in 2016 D3) 0 Thematic regional meetings on improving Legal and regulatory framework in line with the WFD, IWRM and MEAs organised in 2016.</td>
<td>D1) 6 of 6 NPDs operational and active D2) Minimum of 6 NPDs in EaP region in 2020. D3) 4 Thematic regional meetings on improving Legal and regulatory framework in line with the WFD, IWRM and MEAs organised in 2017-2020.</td>
<td>D1 and D2) Number of NPD Steering Committee meetings organised plus meeting documentation D3) Documentation of 4 Thematic regional meetings.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output</td>
<td>Results chain</td>
<td>Indicators</td>
<td>Baseline (2016)</td>
<td>Targets (2020)</td>
<td>Sources and means of verification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output 1.2: Technical capacity is built within national and/or river basins authorities for the development of policies, strategies and budgetary framework in line with WFD, IWRM and MEAs</td>
<td>Sustainable mechanism for local capacity development created and embedded in partner institutions to a targeted delegate base</td>
<td>Poor wages and career structures are a barrier to staff recruitment and retention Average staff age high and conservative in outlook Knowledge compartmentalised and specialised reflecting the Soviet structure with limited overview of water management Operational basin organisation are rare and their establishment (re-establishment) has just begun Fragmented training plans Non-structured / ad hoc capacity development</td>
<td>Sustainable, targeted, country specific capacity development</td>
<td>6 country chapters on needs assessment for capacity development &amp; country plans A regional work plan National trainings Regional and sub-regional trainings (4 as a minimum) Evaluation of the trainings by the participants No of training packages (a) developed and (b) transferred to partner training institutions in the 6 countries</td>
<td>Effective selection of participants and a decreased turnover Willingness of local training institutions to co-operate on the implementation of the training plans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities</td>
<td>a) Activities to increase sustainability of trainings for water resources managers</td>
<td>In 6 of 6 countries, relevant training centres have training modules available to offer after end of EUWI+ project</td>
<td>In 6 of 6 countries, ad hoc trainings organised by various international donors/projects but sustainability of results and training modules remains low</td>
<td>In 6 of 6 countries, existing well-established national training centres identified to provide trainings during and after EUWI+ project</td>
<td>Availability of training modules/materials at training centres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities</td>
<td>b) Activities to raise capacity of water managers through national and regional trainings</td>
<td>Selected key water managers in 6 countries trained at national or regional capacity building events</td>
<td>Lack of trainings specialised on developing international water cooperation and on implementing EU legal frameworks</td>
<td>Water managers from 6 countries trained on developing international water cooperation and on implementing EU legal frameworks at minimum 4 regional or sub-regional trainings</td>
<td>Project website and annual reports to NEAR (number of trainings organised, training materials/modules developed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Results chain</td>
<td>Indicators</td>
<td>Baseline (2016)</td>
<td>Targets (2020)</td>
<td>Sources and means of verification</td>
<td>Assumptions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Result 2: River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) designed and implemented in line with the WFD principles</td>
<td>Number of RBMPs designed and share of national territory covered by the above</td>
<td>12 RBMPs (7 under EPIRB) and 22% covered</td>
<td>18 RBMPs (incl. 6 new EUWI+ RBMPs) and 32% covered. In addition, one 1st phase RBMP preparation, resulting in a total related coverage of 59%</td>
<td>Assessment reports Mission reports Quarterly reports Annual reports <a href="http://www.euwipluseast.eu">www.euwipluseast.eu</a></td>
<td>Political acceptance of reform to approximate the principles of water-related EU acquis and IWRM and support by the main interested parties and civil society Political willingness to adopt RBMPs Political willingness to allocate budgets for implementation, incl. permanent staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of RBMPs designed or refined in line with the WFD principles and share of national territory covered by the above</td>
<td>7 RBMPs (under EPIRB) and 12% covered</td>
<td>13 RBMPs (incl. 4 EPIRB RBMPs; EUWI+: 3 refined EPIRB RBMPs &amp; 6 new EUWI+ RBMPs) in line with the WFD principles and 22% covered. In addition, one 1st phase RBMP preparation, resulting in a total related coverage of 49%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Output</td>
<td>Output 2.1: Adequate infrastructure is available for sound monitoring of water quality and quantity in pilot areas in line with the WFD</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Procurement and trainings are successfully completed Infrastructure is utilised and maintained in a sustainable manner in the mid-term</td>
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</table>
### European Union Water Initiative Plus for Eastern Partnership Countries – Final Inception Report

#### Results chain

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
<th>Sources and means of verification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of assessment reports</td>
<td>Questionnaires on infrastructure, capacities and needs</td>
<td>Annual reports, monitoring assessment reports, laboratory assessment reports, missions reports, <a href="http://www.euwipluseast.eu">www.euwipluseast.eu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality laboratory assessment reports</td>
<td>Questionnaires on infrastructure, capacities and needs</td>
<td>Annual reports, monitoring assessment reports, laboratory assessment reports, missions reports, <a href="http://www.euwipluseast.eu">www.euwipluseast.eu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of identified priority laboratories for EUWI+</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Activities</td>
<td>Output 2.2: Capacity is developed and strengthened on chemical, hydro-morphological, ecological and biological monitoring of selected river basins in accordance to WFD</td>
<td>2.1.3: Technical support to laboratories for accreditation</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Prioritisation and realisation of laboratory upgrading investments (supply, works and services) in Euros</td>
<td>Number of participations in proficiency testing schemes of identified priority laboratories</td>
<td>Number of accredited laboratories and extent of accreditation (ISO 17025)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline (2016)</td>
<td>Concrete baseline data from laboratory assessment reports</td>
<td>Concrete baseline data from laboratory assessment reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Targets (2020)</td>
<td>12 (2 years x 6 priority laboratories) participations in proficiency testing schemes of identified priority laboratories</td>
<td>Number of accredited laboratories and extent of accreditation (ISO 17025) from pre-audit assessment reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sources and means of verification</td>
<td>Pre-audit assessment reports Annual reports Mission reports Accreditation certificates Documentation of study visits <a href="http://www.euwipluseast.eu">www.euwipluseast.eu</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assumptions</td>
<td>Participants are committed and willing to take part in meetings with experts</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Results chain: Indicators

- Prioritisation and realisation of laboratory upgrading investments (supply, works and services) in Euros

- Number of participations in proficiency testing schemes of identified priority laboratories

- Number of accredited laboratories and extent of accreditation (ISO 17025)

- Number of study visits

Assumptions:

- Sufficient number of staff is available and trained according to plans

- Sufficient number of trained staff is available in the mid-term to carry out monitoring activities
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Results chain</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Baseline (2016)</th>
<th>Targets (2020)</th>
<th>Sources and means of verification</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.2.1: Preparation of training plans and organization of hands-on trainings and training of trainers with regard to monitoring and laboratory analyses and to support laboratories for accreditation</td>
<td>Number of country-based monitoring trainings plans prepared</td>
<td>n.a. ([information of existing training plans will be used as input])</td>
<td>6 country-based monitoring training plans are prepared</td>
<td>Annual reports Monitoring training plans Laboratory training plans Mission reports</td>
<td>Capable participants (with existing background knowledge) are available for training Infrastructure (transport, accommodation and equipment) is available for trainings</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of country-based laboratory trainings plans prepared</td>
<td>n.a. ([information of existing training plans will be used as input])</td>
<td>6 country-based laboratory training plans are prepared</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Number of monitoring training events</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>Number of training events Number of elaborated training materials Number of trainees (target values as agreed in the country-based monitoring training plans)</td>
<td>Annual reports Training documentation incl. agenda and list of participants Training materials Evaluation of trainings by participants Mission reports</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of training material prepared</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>Number of training events Number of elaborated training materials Number of trainees (target values as agreed in the country-based laboratory training plans)</td>
<td>Mission reports</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Number of trainees prepared</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>Number of training events Number of elaborated training materials Number of trainees (target values as agreed in the country-based laboratory training plans)</td>
<td>Mission reports <a href="http://www.euwipluseast.eu">www.euwipluseast.eu</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Number of trainees</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>Number of training events Number of elaborated training materials Number of trainees (target values as agreed in the country-based laboratory training plans)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.euwipluseast.eu">www.euwipluseast.eu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Output</td>
<td>Output 2.3: Pilot river basins management plans implemented</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Activities</td>
<td>2.3.1: Assessment of the needs and identification of priorities in implementation of the RBMPs</td>
<td>Number of assessment reports containing gaps to be filled for the refinement of current EPIRB RBMPs</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>6 assessment reports</td>
<td>Annual reports Assessment reports Mission reports <a href="http://www.euwipluseast.eu">www.euwipluseast.eu</a></td>
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</table>

Political will exists to support implementation of pilot plans

Availability of relevant data of current RBMPs
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Results chain</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Baseline (2016)</th>
<th>Targets (2020)</th>
<th>Sources and means of verification</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.3.2: Technical Support in the elaboration and implementation of the pilot RBMPs</td>
<td>Number of RBMPs in line with the WFD principles elaborated</td>
<td>7 existing RBMPs (drafts or approved) in line with the WFD principles elaborated (EPIRB)</td>
<td>13 RBMPs (incl. 4 EPIRBRBMPs; EUWI+: 3 refined EPIRB RBMPs &amp; 6 new EUWI+ RBMPs) in line with the WFD principles. In addition, one 1st phase RBMP preparation</td>
<td>Annual reports RBMPs developed, RBMPs refined, Mission reports National guidelines <a href="http://www.euwipluseast.eu">www.euwipluseast.eu</a></td>
<td>Willingness of competent authorities, basin organisations to share information and to contribute actively to the development of RBMPs</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of thematic / basin guidelines for WFD development and implementation prepared</td>
<td>6 thematic guidelines already written during EPIRB project for the region</td>
<td>18 thematic national guidelines</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2.3.3 Technical Support to the RBM institutions to tackle coordination in transboundary river basins</td>
<td>Number of events to support transboundary structures in the coordination of RB processes</td>
<td>4 transboundary structures exist</td>
<td>12 events to support transboundary structures organised</td>
<td>Annual reports Mission reports <a href="http://www.euwipluseast.eu">www.euwipluseast.eu</a></td>
<td>Willingness of relevant authorities to support transboundary dialogue 4 transboundary structures exist</td>
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<td>2.3.4: Carry out biological, ecological, chemicals surveys as needed to develop and implement the RBMPs, including intercalibration and transboundary activities</td>
<td>Number of implemented surveys incl. joint surveys to transboundary river basins</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>EUWI+ surveys (2 rounds x 2 topics x 6 countries) are implemented (surface water and groundwater) EUWI+ coastal surveys (2 rounds x 2 countries)</td>
<td>Annual reports Mission reports Survey reports <a href="http://www.euwipluseast.eu">www.euwipluseast.eu</a></td>
<td>Competent staff and experts are available Sites are selected (incl. transboundary sites if available) Countries are willing to collaborate</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.3.5: Investigatory monitoring of water bodies at risk of high pollution or related issues</td>
<td>Number of investigatory surveys carried out</td>
<td>n.a</td>
<td>6 investigatory surveys are carried out (surface water chemistry)</td>
<td>Annual reports Mission reports Investigatory survey reports <a href="http://www.euwipluseast.eu">www.euwipluseast.eu</a></td>
<td>Preliminary risk assessment is successful as a basis for site selection</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Results chain</td>
<td>Indicators</td>
<td>Baseline (2016)</td>
<td>Targets (2020)</td>
<td>Sources and means of verification</td>
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<td>2.3.6. Development and strengthening of national databases on water related issues &amp; ensure compliance of data with SEIS principles for collection and sharing of data</td>
<td>Degree in which national and basin water databases and information systems are in place to support the development and monitor the implementation of the pilot RBMPs and apply SEIS principles evaluated through: Number of national online metadata catalogues established Number of assessment and recommendation reports on national and pilot RBMP basis Number of maps produced Implementation of web services Organisation of work shops</td>
<td>Data and information management is being addressed but the tools are not consistent. SEIS and WISE are being gradually introduced.</td>
<td>Key data holders, data bases and Information Systems, means of data access and data flow, are identified. Target of min. 3 online metadata catalogues presenting the description of the main data sources (min. 30) for RBMP planning, fed with contributions of the data producers available. Procedures regarding data management, data access and data provision are introduced taking SEIS principles into account for the 6 countries. 4 national workshops on data management. Maps (min. 50) and indicators for RBMP are produced with available data. Web services are implemented to facilitate data dissemination in min. 3 countries.</td>
<td>Annual reports Mission reports Metadata catalogues online. Recommendations for SEIS principles compliant data management procedures including web service. Workshops reports. Atlas of maps. Web services. <a href="http://www.euwipluseast.eu">www.euwipluseast.eu</a></td>
<td>Willingness of competent authorities, basin organisations, operators of water infrastructure and municipalities to share data and information and to actively contribute to the development and implementation of RBMPs, and to develop their information system in line with SEIS principles. Sufficient number of staff, appropriately IT educated, is available and willing to improve capabilities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.3.7. Establish a system for regular monitoring of the implementation of the RBMPs programme of measures &amp; Support the use of evidence-based data for policy making and review of RBMPs programme of measures</td>
<td>Number of indicator catalogues for monitoring RBMP implementation progress and data visualisation tools proposed and/or implemented</td>
<td>No systematic follow-up of RBMPs implementation</td>
<td>5 catalogues and tools proposed and/or implemented</td>
<td>Annual reports Mission reports Reports and tools (dashboard) <a href="http://www.euwipluseast.eu">www.euwipluseast.eu</a></td>
<td>Content of current programme of measures enough detailed to organise the monitoring of their implementation. Willingness of sectoral agencies to provide sufficient data and information.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Results chain</td>
<td>Indicators</td>
<td>Baseline (2016)</td>
<td>Targets (2020)</td>
<td>Sources and means of verification</td>
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<tr>
<td>Result 3: Lessons learnt are regularly collected, shared and communicated to stakeholders</td>
<td>Output 3.1. Coordination, awareness and visibility of the project are ensured</td>
<td>Communication strategy in place at basin, national and regional scale to efficiently share and communicate to main interested parties and up to the wide public.</td>
<td>Communication strategies and tools have been developed in the EPIRB project pilot basins and partially implemented. There is no established communication strategy or campaigns at national scale on RBMP implementation.</td>
<td>Annual reports, Mission reports, <a href="http://www.euwipluseast.eu">www.euwipluseast.eu</a>, Communication strategies for the project based on implementation report, Technical supporting documents and satisfaction enquiries for communication actions organised at the different scales in line with the strategy.</td>
<td>Active participation of competent public administrations, basin organisations and stakeholders to share experience and to learn from domestic and international experience, and to adjust their own performance accordingly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Activities</td>
<td>3.1.1: Development, regular update and implementation of a communication strategy for the project</td>
<td>Communication tools developed and implemented (website, printed documents, etc). Number and audience of targeted communication actions in line with the strategy implemented.</td>
<td>Communication tools have been developed in the EPIRB project pilot basins and partially implemented. The prevailing situation in 2017 in the water sector as investigated during the early implementation phase.</td>
<td>Basin- and country-wide implementation of communication tools at basin, national and regional scale. Significant increase of the number of targeted communication actions and audience for stakeholders involvement and public awareness raising on sound water resources management by the end of the project. Min. 100 publications on the dedicated website. Min. 200,000 hits to the dedicated website. Min. 10 e-newsletters distributed to min. 100 subscribers. Min. 20 communication publications edited</td>
<td>Public administrations, basin organisations and stakeholders will remain committed to promote an integrated vision of water management issues at national and basin level</td>
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<tr>
<td>Results chain</td>
<td>Indicators</td>
<td>Baseline (2016)</td>
<td>Targets (2020)</td>
<td>Sources and means of verification</td>
<td>Assumptions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Activities</td>
<td>3.1.2: Organisation of exchanges in pilot projects to support public and stakeholder participation in the preparation, implementation, review and update of RBMPs developed under result 2</td>
<td>Establishment of stakeholders participation mechanisms at basin, national and international levels. Number of stakeholder consultations and basin committee meetings Procedure of stakeholder consultations for RBMP developed and tested.</td>
<td>River Basin Councils (RBCs) established in the pilot basins within the framework of previous projects based on donor driven process are not sustainable in the absence of perennial organisational and financial mechanisms. Key institutional stakeholders in the basin are being invited for discussions at each key stage of basin plan development, under the EPIRB project. Public participation and involvement remain limited.</td>
<td>Development of practices and progressive institutionalisation of stakeholder involvement mechanisms by means of min. 20 RBCs meetings and 10 stakeholder consultations</td>
<td>Willingness of stakeholders at basin level to co-operate on IWRM and RBMP issues</td>
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<tr>
<td>Activities</td>
<td>3.1.3: Establishment of a mechanism to harmonise practices and share information and communication with practitioners involved in WFD implementation and/or IWRM in the 6 EaP countries</td>
<td>National institutions and organisations using IWRM knowledge and lessons learnt generated for research, planning and policy making; Number of action cards prepared for stakeholder involvement in line with WFD implementation</td>
<td>There are few forums for delivery of lessons learnt at the national level and none at the basin level – the NPDs being an obvious example. Lessons learnt are communicated but not in a consistent and targeted manner.</td>
<td>Appropriate mechanisms developed to efficiently share lessons learnt among main interested parties and stakeholders. Min.6 action-cards inserted in 6 national guidelines</td>
<td>Active participation of competent public administrations, basin organisations and stakeholders to share experience and to learn from domestic and international experience, and to adjust their own performance accordingly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Activities</td>
<td>3.1.4: Organisation of international events including study visits to harmonise practices and share information and communication on WFD implementation, IWRM and MEAs</td>
<td>Number of international events conducted/organised: Regional meetings Transboundary working group meetings Study visits</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>Min. 10 international events organised including study visits to harmonise practices and share information and communication on WFD implementation, IWRM and MEAs</td>
<td>Willingness of riparian countries to co-operate on IWRM and trans-boundary water issues</td>
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</table>
Annex B  Communication and Visibility Strategy and Action Plan

Context and purpose

This plan presents the overall strategy proposed to enhance visibility and dissemination of the results of the project EUWI+ for Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries (EUWI+ East). This project has been initiated by the DG Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) of the European Commission as its main programme to help EaP countries implement the principles of IWRM and EU water acquis in the region. Thus, this plan must reflect the strategic approach of the Commission in the water sector, promoting the orientation of activities for concrete results in line with the EU WFD principles and with strong ownership by the beneficiary countries.

The action plan will be implemented following best practices in communication including, among others, a strategic approach, public information outreach, special events organisation, social media and web communications. It will be enhanced and adapted to local specificities through the development of six communication strategies for RBMPlanning in the course of the project.

These country-specific communication strategies will be based on stakeholder involvement mechanisms for RBMPlanning. To ensure sustainability of results, methodological guidance and support will be provided to the beneficiary institutions. This aims to build capacities of the authorities at the three main scales of intervention (national, basin district and international) for exchanges in transboundary basins.

All in all, the communication and visibility strategy and action plan aims to support the project’s technical objectives related to IWRM and EU water acquis. At the same time, it will inform important external stakeholders and the public about the impact of the project itself, its principles, priorities and achievements. It includes a strategic approach and an action plan for implementation and will be supported by the budget allocated to the project.

Overall Communication and Visibility Strategy

Overall communication objectives

The communication will focus on two main objectives:

- Provide information on the project activities and more widely the action of the European Union including its adherence to citizens’ needs.
- Support beneficiary countries in their RBMPlanning activities by ensuring public participation and awareness-raising, in line with the specific needs of RBMPlanning.

This strategic second objective will be implemented following the need for IWRM at three main scales:
1. At **basin scale** in the hydrographic districts used as pilots for RBMP preparation and implementation within the project, which require directing particular communication efforts towards local interest parties, stakeholders and the general public.

2. At **national scale** in six countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, with close consideration of the organisation of the work in the different hydrographic districts of each country.

3. At **regional scale** i.e. in the Eastern European and Caucasus regions targeted by the project, in the large transboundary basins such as the Danube, Dnieper and Kura.

More precisely, the communication strategies in the six countries aim to:

- Disseminate and promote the results of work within the framework of the EUWI+ East project to increase convergence towards European water directives principles.
- Raise awareness and mobilise the different stakeholders and also civil society on good practices and solutions for sustainable water resources management.
- Generate support for the EUWI NPDs on water as a high-level inter-sectoral co-ordination mechanism for the project in each of the six countries.
- Enhance the impact of methodological and demonstration work within the framework of the EUWI+ East on the pilot basin areas to up-scale results in other hydrographic districts within the same country.
- Increase information exchange and harmonise orientations on main transboundary issues with other countries sharing the pilot transboundary basins.
- Promote achievements of EUWI internationally, share information and develop synergies with other international organisations, networks and financial institutions active in water policy reform.
- Reflect the strategic approach of the EU commission in the region creating mindful links with the different EU tools, initiatives and main projects (Capacity4Dev, EMBLAS, GGKP, etc.) and in a consistent style built up through a unified project image shared by the different consortium members (common logo, graphic charter, etc.), in line with the EU communication and visibility manuals.

**Target groups**

The communication strategies for RBMPlanning will be formulated in close co-operation with:

- national authorities responsible for developing and co-ordinating implementation of national policies for water resources management and for applying the EU basin principle
- regional and basin authorities in charge of stewardship of water resources and co-ordination of stakeholders from the different water sectors through participative RBM Planning
- EU Delegations in the six countries and their colleagues at EU Headquarters (primarily at DG NEAR, DG DEVCO, DG ENV, EEAS).

The primary target groups will be:

- the main interested parties in the different sectors (agriculture, industry and domestic water management), in charge of authorising and controlling the different water uses, sectoral and thematic planning and financing for measure implementation in respect of the framework scheme for IWRM
- private-sector representatives
- the donor community active in the water sector in the region
- stakeholders in neighbouring countries, sharing the pilot area for the transboundary basins
- NGOs and expert communities, as identified in the context of NPDs
- Other audience groups that could benefit from the dissemination of information.

More broadly, the communication will reach the broad water community, with particular emphasis on policy makers and stakeholders interested in water policy reforms.

In line with the need for RBMPlanning and European practices, the mechanisms used at the three main scales will be:

- NPD and national technical working group structure to be linked with the technical WG structure of the European CIS
- Basin committee at district and sub-basin scales in close connection with measure implementation
- Cross-boundary technical WG structure or multilateral WG of the international commission as ICPDR for Moldova and Ukraine.

Specific communication objectives for each target group, are presented in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target groups</th>
<th>Specific communication objectives</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National authorities</td>
<td>Support policy process, influence specific policies or policy makers on key aspects of the water sector reform. Disseminate and promote the results of the work within the framework of the EUWI+ East project to increase convergence towards European water directives principles. Generate support for the EUWI+ National Policy Dialogues on water used as a high-level inter-sectoral co-ordination mechanism.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional and basin authorities</td>
<td>Improve knowledge of IWRM among target groups including the work plan for participative RBMPlanning. Contribute to improved co-ordination and information exchange on water-related issues. Create stakeholder dialogue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main interested parties in the different sectors</td>
<td>Improve knowledge of IWRM among target groups. Build awareness of the project and its components among target audiences and user groups. Contribute to improved co-ordination and information exchange on water-related issues and build consensus on the need for good water status.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stakeholders in neighbouring countries, sharing the pilot area</td>
<td>Increase information exchange and harmonise orientations on main transboundary issues with other countries sharing the pilot transboundary basins.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC Commission, EU Delegations, donors and international organisations</td>
<td>Promote the achievements of EUWI+ internationally, share information and develop synergies with other international organisations, networks and financial institutions active in water policy reform.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGOs and expert communities</td>
<td>Improve knowledge of IWRM among target groups. Enhance the impact of methodological and demonstration work within the framework of the EUWI+ East on the pilot basin areas. Raise awareness and mobilise the different stakeholders and civil society on good practices and solutions for sustainable water resources management.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Messages

The communication aims at delivering several messages:

- **Ownership by Eastern Partnership countries.** The visibility of beneficiary institutions will be used in priority for the technical outputs of the project. The partners and experts involved in the implementation will communicate in line with the demand expressed by EaP countries to support as efficiently as possible their efforts in integrated water resources management.

- **Policy relevance of the EU acquis.** The communication will explain how the use of EU benchmarking is an important vector of progress responding to social demand in EaP countries.

- **Capacity to deliver.** The communication will highlight actions by governments and authorities working at basin scale to implement the policy recommendations that derive from the project activities.

- **Good practices dissemination.** Good practices of water policies in Eastern Partnership countries will be shared to make the case for reform, demonstrate its feasibility, and create momentum and commitment in other parts of the water community; in parallel, successful stakeholder and civil society initiatives that put in place concrete solutions for sustainable water resources management will be supported and highlighted to foster further development.

- **Added value of EUWI+.** The capacity of EUWI+ to support reform processes and the relevance of EU experience on water policies will be highlighted as appropriate, so that the approach can be used as model in other regions.

### Communication channels

Privileged communication channels in function of each target group are presented in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target audiences</th>
<th>Privileged communication channel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Representatives of the key state agencies in charge of water management-related issues (ministries, parliaments, local authorities)</td>
<td>Conferences and other public events, face-to-face meetings, newsletters, email alerts, websites, promotional literature (leaflets, fact sheets)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local water experts, scientists and researchers</td>
<td>Workshops, seminars, training courses, conferences, websites, newsletters, promotional literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local population</td>
<td>Regional meetings, media channels, promotional literature (limited effect)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGOs, mass media</td>
<td>Conferences, workshops, seminars, websites, newsletter, promotional literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General public</td>
<td>Press releases, email alerts, newsletters, websites, press-conferences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donors and international organisations</td>
<td>Website, newsletters, media channels, promotional literature.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Communication and Visibility Activities and Tools

Main activities included in the Communication and Visibility Plan

Recurrent communication activities

- Design and print information and promotion materials:
  - leaflets on project’s main components (English and Russian), banners, stands, promotional items
  - public versions of studies, reports, other material
  - leaflets on the results of the project
  - newsletters
  - public versions/summaries of project results and reports.
- Disseminate the material through the channels of the EU, beneficiary institutions, OECD, UNECE, etc.
- Publish in local and international mass media:
  - dissemination of press releases (through the database) at training courses, seminars, conferences, field mission reports, etc.
  - response to media enquiries (national, regional, international).
- Design and launch a fully functioning bilingual (English/Russian) regularly updated website at euwipluseast.eu.
- Place links to the website on all partner websites to increase visibility.
- Create a database of contacts (target audiences) and relevant e-mail lists.
- Create a newsletter subscription option on the website.
- Produce and distribute a newsletter.
- Produce and distribute publications (online and print) through various channels: public events (e.g. seminars, workshops, etc.) and media events connected to non-public events organised by the project and in partnership with other organisations.
- Networking through participation in various environmental and water-related events to increase visibility of the project (dissemination of promotional material).
- Direct communication (meetings with stakeholders, trainings, seminars).

Ongoing compliance with EU visibility requirements will be ensured in all developed project material, publications, e-learning courses, facilitations, workshops etc.

The communication plan (see below) presents the timeframe and achievement indicators for the planned activities.

Focus on regular meetings

Meetings will be held at least annually to support communication with the main stakeholders at each of the three main scales:

Regular meetings at national level

The NPD process under Result 1 will entail regular meetings (of the NPD Co-ordination Council, or similar steering body, or multi-stakeholder). These meetings will be organised by the NPD Chair with support from the OECD and UNECE. Relevant representatives of the target groups will systematically participate.
A typical national NPD meeting convenes 35-40 people. They meet once or twice a year as long as the NPD is active. The private sector, local NGOs and experts are invited, on request. National media are invited on a case-by-case basis, depending on where the meeting stands in the NPD project cycle.

In addition, Result 3 will entail supporting the national and pilot basin authorities to organise regular technical meetings to share and disseminate the methodologies tested on the pilot basins in the country’s different basins.

A working group structure will be tested to build a common implementation strategy for RBM Planning among the institutions and stakeholders involved in each country.

**Meetings at regional level**

The regional meetings will be held on an annual basis, with particular intensity around the mid-term and final project results dissemination.

The regional meetings will provide an opportunity to share lessons from the project, learn from other initiatives and highlight the countries’ progress and agendas. Efforts will be made to keep exchanges open with countries of Central Asia in co-ordination with relevant initiatives in the EECCA community.

In addition, specific sessions at the regional meetings will be dedicated to donor co-ordination, where donors share information about ongoing projects and future developments.

The outputs of these meetings (summary record, meeting agendas, presentation, etc.) will be distributed to an extended list of stakeholders and made widely available through the web.

**Stakeholder meetings in the pilot basins**

Pilot basin authorities will be supported to organise regular meetings in order to co-ordinate implementation of pilot RBMPs with the main stakeholders of the hydrographic district. These meetings will be designed to create a sustainable exchange platform and possibly institutionalised as basin committee meetings in each hydrographic districts. Transboundary meetings in the pilot river basin will be organised, if the political context permits, to share and harmonise RBM Planning activities between neighbouring countries.

**Focus on information materials**

A set of communication tools will be presented as part of the work to prepare the communication strategies under Result 3 activities. The proposed selection will correspond with the scale, specific needs of Results 1 and 2, and local context, and open to the use of ICT and social media. Depending on the precise target audience, communication materials shall be produced in English, Russian and/or in national languages of the EaP countries.

The major elements will be selected to optimise exposure to the target group, while limiting traffic and information overload, and include:
• Operation under Result 3 of a website for EUWI+ East project in English and Russian featuring general information about the initiative together with all major validated outputs connected with the National Policy Dialogue website run under Result 1.

• Relay of information about the initiative through the websites and newsletters of the different institutions involved in the project as beneficiary and award organisms. In addition, each award organisation will convey the information through the networks with which they are closely connected, such as UN agencies, ICPDR, INBO, etc.

• Organisation of national and international press conferences in relation to major milestones and communication events.

• Potential use of tools such as videos, podcasts, etc. to reach a wider audience for disseminating good practices and results of the EUWI+ East project.

All major outputs (toolkits, studies, reports, etc.) will be accompanied by the following:

• a press release, if the issue is important (or of general interest), but not politically sensitive
• when relevant, policy briefs (highlights for policy makers).

**Communication plans for key outputs will be prepared and included in the annual work plans.** At the end of the project, a final brochure highlighting achievements and lessons learned will be published.

The following distribution lists will be kept up to date:

• government contacts in all partner countries
• EU Delegations and donor agencies
• contacts in basin organisations, NGOs, private sector and water-user organisations
• international organisations, including international financial institutions
• media contacts.

**Communication tools**

**External communication**

The following external communication tools will be developed and used throughout the project’s implementation.

• **Website: [http://euwipluseast.eu](http://euwipluseast.eu)**

On this website, all of the deliverables will be published and accessible either to the public or solely to the partner organisations.

The website will also present the project, its partners and work packages, link to relevant websites (i.e. EU, beneficiary ministries, etc.) and provide a calendar of selected events.

• **Newsletters**

The project will produce the newsletter with contributions from each partner organisation and release it in electronic format. In terms of content, it will summarise progress of the project’s implementation.
• **Flyers and leaflets**

Leaflets will be produced at different stages of the project, and mainly for its introduction (project presentation leaflets) and conclusion (final assessment leaflets). Flyers will be produced to seize communication opportunities (important international or national water events such as editions of the World Water Days, World Water Forum, World Water Weeks).

• **Posters, banners, similar media**

Posters, banners and other types of media, such as flyers, will be produced to seize communication opportunities, but in particular at key milestones of the project (regional, steering committee, and conclusion meetings).

• **Professional and social networks**

For external communication purposes, several professional and social media channels will be set up:

- a LinkedIn group
- a Twitter account
- a Facebook page

EUWI+East will use professional and social networks to provide short updates on meetings and visits and also use them as platforms for both the regular and special communication activities.

• **Organisation of events or active participation in events (“stand alone” or side-events)**

Events will be organised to present the project or showcase progress in its implementation/completion. These events will be planned either as side-events at important international conferences, or as “stand-alone” events.

• **Videos, virtual meetings, multi-media presentations, webinars**

These tools developed by the project will be used to present the main outcomes of EUWI+East and may require contribution from representatives of other partner organisations in the form of interviews, PPT presentations, speeches or training sessions.

• **Workshops**

The project ensures EU visibility during workshops, e.g. roll-up banners and EU logo on facilitators’ visual presentations.

**Internal Communication**

Project partners will use the following tools to support the project’s implementation:

• **Collaboration space for each country**
One information exchange platform per country, accessible from the project website with password-restricted access, will allow more informal exchange of the essential bibliographical documents reflecting the situation in the beneficiary country, the working documents being developed, and communication items (picture, video, music, citation, etc.) for future documentation of activities.

In addition, this project will make available a collaboration space on Google Drive and other online collaborative tools to develop common project team documents useful for the development of the project results and under the management of the country facilitators.

- **Project meetings**

Co-ordination meetings and regular webconferences will be held to co-ordinate activities of the partners and implementation of their respective Work Packages.

Dedicated co-ordination sessions may be held for specific points.

- **Email distribution list**

To facilitate dissemination of information, an email list per country will be established. Result 3 together with country facilitators will play the role of focal point for maintaining this tool. Any team member can use this list to communicate easily with the team on matters that affect the entire team.

- **Webconferencing system/account**

The team will access a webconferencing Adobeconnect system to hold team meetings that include remote team members. UBA and IOWater have such tools available on demand.

**Organisation principle and responsibilities**

The main interested parties for the execution of the communication and visibility plans are, beyond the EU and other donors, the four implementing partners and the six ministries leading IWRM policy in the beneficiary countries.

On top of communication efforts linked directly to the project’s needs, the work on implementing the communication and visibility plan will be driven by the project leaders of the awarded institutions with support from the thematic leader working on Result 3. For a more sustainable result, the main developments will be managed in priority by the communication department of the beneficiary ministries, based on the joint management efforts of the implementing partners and the beneficiaries. The communication plan linked to participative RBMPlanning will employ institutional capacity-building techniques in line with best practices and tools developed in Member States. In so doing, it will foster beneficiary countries’ capacity to mobilise water resource management actors to implement EU acquis and WFD in particular, and deliver concrete results.

The main subject of communication will correspond to activities implemented by national institutions with support from project experts. Thus, all experts must be mobilised to document each experience to support future dissemination. The informal exchange platform will be used for collecting text, videos and pictures, in particular to feed future communication support at a later stage.
Indicators of achievement

Completion of the communication objectives

Through the communication activities outlined in this document (see Communication Plan), the following achievements are expected:

- A high level of awareness of the activities, impact and outcomes of the project among different groups of stakeholders.
- A strengthened positive image of the EU and project-implementing partners successfully working together to bring about resolution of water problems in EaP countries through effective application of WFD/IWRM principles.
- Better co-ordination and information exchange on water-related issues in EaP countries (including indicators of achievement for the different tools proposed)

Provisions for feedback

The Communication Plan will be reviewed continuously throughout the project to ensure it remains effective. Periodically, the project manager will ask stakeholders if the communication plan is sufficient and corresponds to their needs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Review the project communication plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Solicit feedback from the project stakeholders, verbally or in writing, as to whether information or communication method is adequate, based on the following criteria:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- type of information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- frequency of information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- depth/detail of information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- format of information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- method of transmittal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Discuss stakeholder feedback</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Update project communication plan if needed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following tools will be provided to organise the feedback:

- An initial survey to specify needs of the targets
- Indicators of impact and success for each communication measure to determine the outcome of the strategy
- Continuous surveillance of the meetings:
  - Level of satisfaction of each session regarding its subject, content, co-ordination, exchanges, participants, format, etc.
  - Effects of the session on participants’ knowledge, capacity building, understanding, personal impact, meeting with other people, stakeholders, and desire to pursue reflection and action, and be involved.
Resources

Communication requires human and financial resources.

Efforts directly linked to project communication will be covered in priority, together with selected action that generates an impact amplified by the beneficiary countries using their own resources.

The strategic and methodological work will be supported by the key expert in the IWRM participative process involved in Result 3. Most decisions on communication activities are taken by the beneficiary of the action with support from the project’s management structure.

Selected actions that should have a demonstrative value will be implemented by the country institutions, coached by the Member State expert. They will be supported by project offices in each country and contracted local experts and/or NGOs.

The EUWI+East project includes a dedicated budget for direct communication costs linked to the project’s implementation, such as printing and materials, visibility, workshops and labour costs for devising and, to some extent, implementing the country-specific strategies.

Costs linked to implementing communication activities in each country will be balanced based on beneficiary country prioritisation of local support provided by the project.

Timescales

During the inception period, priority will be given to communicating the project. The first part of implementing the work plan will establish conditions for developing communication strategies in each of the countries to be tested and implemented progressively throughout the project. See the Communication Plan below.

Evaluation and updating

The plan will be regularly reviewed and updated to include suggestions for new communication products and mechanisms.

Visibility rules and elements to be used

Unless otherwise agreed, all publications, reports, press releases and other publicity concerning the project, in any form, including on the internet, will be produced in line with the communication and visibility manual for EU External Actions. In particular, all material will mention that the European Union has provided the financial resources for the project. They will display, unless otherwise agreed for reasons agreed in advance, the European Union logo. All publications pertaining to the project, in whatever form and whatever medium, including the internet, shall carry the following or a similar disclaimer: “This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The views expressed herein can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the European Union.”
### Communication Action Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities planned</th>
<th>Timeframe/Deadline</th>
<th>Indicators of achievement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Information materials development</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. Design and print information and promotion materials:</strong></td>
<td>July through November 2017</td>
<td>Growing number of enquiries, from the public: media, government, water specialists, general public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaflets on project’s main components (English and Russian), banners, stands, promotional items</td>
<td>2018-20</td>
<td>Growing (or relatively constant) number of participants at training courses and seminars (at least 100 at regional level)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public versions of studies, reports, other materials</td>
<td>2018-20</td>
<td>Min. 10 e-newsletters distributed to min. 100 subscribers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaflets on the results of the project</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>References to the project in mass media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter</td>
<td>2017-20 (upon release)</td>
<td>Citations and references to the materials of the project in other sources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public versions/summaries of project results and reports</td>
<td></td>
<td>Min. 20 communication publications edited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2. Disseminate the materials through the channels of the EU, OECD, UNECE, beneficiary countries, etc.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Feedback about the project’s activities in random informal interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3. Publication in local and international mass media</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissemination of press releases (through the database) on training courses, seminars, conferences, field mission reports, etc.</td>
<td>2017-20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Project website development and online promotion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Time Frame</th>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4. Design and launch a fully functioning bilingual (English/Russian) website on euwipluseast.eu</td>
<td>June through October 2017</td>
<td>Min. 100 publications on the dedicated website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Min. 200,000 hits to the dedicated website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>References to the project in mass media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Citations and references to the materials of the project in other sources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Number of consultations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hits and clicks statistical data for the website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Feedback about the project’s activities in random informal interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Post links to the website on all websites of the partners to increase visibility</td>
<td>2017-20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Regularly update the EUWI+East website</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Contact database development and newsletter distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Time Frame</th>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7. Create a database of contacts (target audiences) and relevant e-mail lists</td>
<td>September – October 2017</td>
<td>Growing number of enquiries, from the public: media, government, water specialists, general public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>References to the project in mass media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Min. 10 e-newsletters distributed to min. 100 subscribers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Enquiries for subscription to the newsletter, and publications.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Feedback about the project’s activities in random informal interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Create a newsletter subscription option on the website</td>
<td>Non-regular, on special occasions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Produce and distribute a newsletter</td>
<td>2017-20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Produce, print and distribute publications (online and in print) through various channels (own contacts, EU, etc.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Development and implementation of country-specific communication strategies for participative RBMPlanning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Time Frame</th>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11. Development of country-specific communication strategies for participative RBMPlanning</td>
<td>2018, update 2020 and 2020</td>
<td>Developed and regularly updated communication strategies and plans for participative RBMPlanning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Implementation of Communication activities for participative RBMPlanning</td>
<td>According to the strategy and communication plan 2018-20</td>
<td>Number of stakeholder information and consultations meetings in each pilot basins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Number of participants at stakeholder consultations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 13. Awareness raising | According to the strategy and communication plan 2017-20 | Citations and references to the events in different sources  
Number of participants to the events and information campaigns |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 14. Take part in public events (e.g. seminars, workshops, etc.) and media events connected to non-public events organised by the project and in partnership with other organisations | 2017-20 | References to the project in mass media.  
Citations and references to the materials of the project in other sources |
| 15. Network through participation in various environment and water-related events for increasing visibility of the project (dissemination of promotional materials) | 2017-20 | Increased number of inquiries from other organisations and institutions.  
New inquiries for subscription to the Newsletter, and publications. |
| 16. Communicate directly (meetings with stakeholders, trainings, seminars) | 2017-20 | Improved knowledge level of implementation of communication strategies in each country (on local, national, regional, transboundary levels)  
Replication of approaches  
Regularity of meetings and number of participants |
Annex C: Country needs and priorities – Screening matrixes

ARMENIA
AZERBAIJAN
BELARUS
GEORGIA
MOLDOVA
UKRAINE
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work Plan Item No.</th>
<th>Country Priority</th>
<th>Interpretation on basis of inception mission</th>
<th>Implication of priority</th>
<th>Responsible Implementing Partner</th>
<th>Implementable within 4 years</th>
<th>Implementable within budget</th>
<th>Synergies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Analysis of “harmful” subsidies in irrigation sector of Armenia, including assessment how appropriate and useful they are, advantages and disadvantages of having unified irrigation fee, possibilities for introduction of differentiated fees, different business models of irrigation water supply, and presentation of recommendations based on pilot studies.</td>
<td>We believe that a study aimed at strengthening water use efficiency in the irrigation sector with a look into different business models and economic instruments, could help to address this priority and the requirements of the Government Resolution on developing Food Security Policy in Armenia, as it will path the way towards sustainable water use in irrigation.</td>
<td>The national study may require to zoom-in and to implement a pilot study. Irrigation is the main water use at the basin level in Armenia.</td>
<td>OECD</td>
<td></td>
<td>Development of a Law “On irrigation” Possible synergies with the support under R2 “planning” for the development of a methodological card adapted to the Armenian context for cost recovery assessment in RBM Planning and potential integration in the national model for RMBP (priority 15)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work Plan Item No.</td>
<td>Country Priority</td>
<td>Interpretation on basis of inception mission</td>
<td>Implication of priority</td>
<td>Responsible Implementing Partner</td>
<td>Implementable within 4 years</td>
<td>Implementable within budget</td>
<td>Synergies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Development of the Republic of Armenia law “On Irrigation”. This is one of the requirements of the Water Code of Armenia, which hasn’t been implemented yet.</td>
<td>Provide any clarifications or interpretations made, does the country proposal align with discussions on inception mission and the DoA (add reference to specific activity)?</td>
<td>List any sub projects or feed in items required to deliver priority</td>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>Work on development of the law could be started only towards completion of the OECD national study</td>
<td>With other national priorities, regional initiatives and other result areas</td>
<td>Potential connection with a demonstration action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Preparation of a policy package to increase water use efficiency by HPPs and to reduce damage to environment. As part of the works the 2009 scheme of development of small HPP in Armenia will be revised, taking into consideration the water use efficiency by small HPPs, climate change issues, as well as damage to environment caused by HPPs due to violation of the environmental flow and river continuity.</td>
<td>This priority covers the issues related to revising and further developing a national policy on water and energy security. Also it touches upon issues as water use efficiency and energy saving in the water sector. A consistent national policy with regard to small HPPs is not in place so far in Armenia, what can also jeopardise implementation of RBMPs at some point.</td>
<td>To carry out this study OECD will have to look specifically to the challenges Armenia is expected to face in the future and the potential policy responses. In particular, it will review the role of water in energy</td>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>Possible synergies with the support under R2 “planning” for the development of Environmental flow calculation methodology</td>
<td>With any relevant IO or donor projects</td>
<td>Possible synergies with the support under R2 “planning” for the development of maps on sustainable hydropower development prone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work Plan Item No.</td>
<td>Country Priority</td>
<td>Interpretation on basis of inception mission</td>
<td>Implication of priority</td>
<td>Responsible Implementing Partner</td>
<td>Implementable within 4 years</td>
<td>Implementable within budget</td>
<td>Synergies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Development of a new methodology for environmental flows, taking into consideration the terms of reference developed by WRMA, as well as previous works on environmental flow methodology, implemented by the USAID Clean Energy and Water Program.</td>
<td>Provide any clarifications or interpretations made, does the country proposal align with discussions on inception mission and the DoA (add reference to specific activity)?</td>
<td>List any sub projects or feed in items required to deliver priority</td>
<td>OECD could help addressing this priority through organising a regional workshop</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>With other national priorities, regional initiatives and other result areas</td>
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**Interpretation on basis of inception mission**

- Reference number does not reflect rank of priority for the country
- Interpretation on basis of inception mission: Provide any clarifications or interpretations made, does the country proposal align with discussions on inception mission and the DoA (add reference to specific activity)?

**Implication of priority**

- List any sub projects or feed in items required to deliver priority

**Responsible Implementing Partner**

- OECD could help addressing this priority through organising a regional workshop

**Implementable within 4 years**

- Yes

**Implementable within budget**

- Yes

**Synergies**

- With other national priorities, regional initiatives and other result areas

**Production in Armenia and how the reform of water allocation rules and economic instruments can influence the impacts on water quantity.**

Policy on hydro power production, Quantitative management orientation of the RBMPs possibly Azerbaijan and Georgia

Some limitation could be anticipated in terms of details and number of international experience available through a regional workshop.
<table>
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<th>Implementable within budget</th>
<th>Synergies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Support to the working group of revising the Water Code of Armenia, particularly in development of a separate chapter on sanitation.</td>
<td>UNECE to provide short-term expert assistance to prepare amendments to the Water Code and a few relevant bylaws to regulate provision of sanitation services</td>
<td>UNECE</td>
<td>Yes, to be completed in Spring 2017</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Possible synergies with the review and implementation of targets under the Protocol on Water and Health (country priority 4) Possibility to propose technical orientations by sectoral experts on domestic waters, involved in RBM Planning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Taking into consideration the Government of Armenia Protocol Session Resolution No 43 on “Government Action Plan Aimed at Implementation of the National Program of Energy Saving and Renewable Energy”, there is a need for a study to particularly assess the potential of hydro-pumps in Armenia, and submit corresponding proposals.</td>
<td>EUWI+ project is probably unable to finance implementation of this priority</td>
<td>EUWI+ project is probably unable to finance implementation of this priority</td>
<td>EUWI+ project is probably unable to finance implementation of this priority</td>
<td>EUWI+ project is probably unable to finance implementation of this priority</td>
<td>Possible synergies with the support under R2 “planning” for the development of maps on sustainable hydropower development prone areas and main points of river discontinuity due to dams as part of RBMPs</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Assessment of the requirements for optimal treatment of wastewaters, taking into consideration the water quality requirements of the recipient water body, required financial resources, the potential of the ecosystem for self-cleaning and related issues.</td>
<td>Provide any clarifications or interpretations made, does the country proposal align with discussions on inception mission and the DoA (add reference to specific activity)?</td>
<td>List any sub projects or feed in items required to deliver priority</td>
<td>EUWI+ project is probably unable to finance implementation of this priority</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Possibility to propose technical orientations by sectoral experts on domestic waters, involved in RBM Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Review, update and support to implementation of the target areas of the UNECE/WHO Water and Health Protocol, developed for Armenia.</td>
<td>This priority relates to the continuation of work implemented by UNECE on the setting of targets under the Protocol on Water and Health and preparing an Action Plan for equitable access to water and sanitation</td>
<td>This activity can be subdivided into following tasks: i) Update of the water and health targets drafted in 2013; Support to the implementation of the Action Plan for equitable access; Support to ratification of the Protocol; Support for national</td>
<td>UNECE</td>
<td>Yes, with gradual implementation of sub-activities</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Possible synergies with country priority #1</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Preparation of proposals for prevention of land erosion due to improper irrigation techniques on slopes and improvement of land productivity, land quality and water use efficiency through alternative, gravity fed irrigation and proper watering techniques, to do a study to promote achievement of water and food security.</td>
<td>Provide any clarifications or interpretations made, does the country proposal align with discussions on inception mission and the DoA (add reference to specific activity)?</td>
<td>List any sub projects or feed in items required to deliver priority</td>
<td>EUWI+ project is probably unable to finance implementation of this priority</td>
<td>EUWI+ project is probably unable to finance implementation of this priority</td>
<td>Possibility to propose technical orientations by sectoral experts on water in agriculture involved in RBM Planning</td>
<td>With other national priorities, regional initiatives and other result areas</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Support to transition from the current system to EU WFD compliant water quality monitoring and assessment system. The work will be based on revising Resolution No 75-N of the Government of Armenia “On Defining Water Quality Norms for Each Water River Basin District taking into Consideration the Peculiarities of the Locality”, dated January 27, 2011.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pending on implementation of # 15 and then to be seen how it can be phased</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>With any relevant IO or donor projects</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Development of a new system for assessment of quantitative and qualitative status of groundwater resources in Armenia.</td>
<td>Pending on implementation of #15 and requirements of funds for it.</td>
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<td>With other national priorities, regional initiatives and other result areas</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Development of norms of water losses for different water use and wastewater discharge sectors.</td>
<td>EUWI+ project is probably unable to finance implementation of this priority</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Possibility to propose technical orientations by sectoral experts on domestic waters, industrial waters and water in agriculture involved in RBM Planning</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Transboundary cooperation with Georgia in Khrami-Debed basin</td>
<td>This activity is not currently listed among country priorities, however, was raised at the last NPD SC meetings in Armenia and Georgia, and was proposed by Georgia as a priority.</td>
<td>Results of earlier EU/UNDP projects in basin to be reviewed. Start from conducting transboundary Khrami-Debed basin assessment jointly with Georgia and seek for UNECE</td>
<td>UNECE</td>
<td>Assessment implementable within 4 years</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>OSCE to be involved. Link with Armenia priorities 2, 5, 6 (as appear in the country list) and Georgia priorities 4, 5, 11 (country list). Possible links to Result 2 and 3 as improved monitoring and basin planning can assist in the transboundary</td>
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<td>List any sub projects or feed in items required to deliver priority</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Update the Republic of Armenia law “On National Water Program” and its phased (short-, medium- and long-term) program of measures (Revision of the Republic of Armenia law “On National Water Program)</td>
<td>Scope of work to be clarified</td>
<td></td>
<td>UNECE</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Scope of the proposed activity to be discussed first</td>
<td>With other national priorities, regional initiatives and other result areas</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Develop a road map for implementation of the new obligations of Armenia under the 5 Water Directives within the EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement</td>
<td>Big difference between roadmap for harmonization/transposition of EU legislation and a roadmap for implementation – needs to be clarified first.</td>
<td></td>
<td>UNECE</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Scope of the proposed activity to be discussed first</td>
<td>With any relevant IO or donor projects</td>
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**Note:**
- Reference number does not reflect rank of priority for the country.
- Implication on basis of inception mission: Provide any clarifications or interpretations made, does the country proposal align with discussions on inception mission and the DoA (add reference to specific activity)?
- Implication of priority: List any sub projects or feed in items required to deliver priority.
- Responsible Implementing Partner: UNECE
- Implementable within 4 years: Yes
- Implementable within budget: Scope of the proposed activity to be discussed first.
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<td>16</td>
<td>Provide equipment and commodity support to strengthen and expand the surface and groundwater quantity and quality monitoring network, and irrigation water accounting in Sevan and Hrazdan River Basin Districts of Armenia, as well as the headquarters of the monitoring and water management organizations.</td>
<td>Full laboratory and monitoring network assessment will be undertaken in Q3 2017. Design and potential extension of the monitoring programmes are integral parts of the RBMP development. Support to the responsible organisations, the laboratories and the monitoring programmes will be provided in terms of equipment and training towards complying with the WFD requirements.</td>
<td>Activities closely linked to RBMP development and surveys</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>Close collaboration with regulatory authorities both for SW and GW.</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Development of River Basin Management Plans for Sevan and Hrazdan River Basin District, based on the approaches of the EU Water Framework Directive and the legislation of water sector in Armenia.</td>
<td>The development of both RBMPs must be coordinated due to their strong upstream/downstream relation. Also several transfers with neighboring basins must be considered. Appropriate governance involving authorities and key stakeholders at the basins levels should be found. Local expertise can be envisaged to support the development of specific. The development of new RBMPs shall be consistent with the updating process of the RBMP model (Priority 18) which will be started first. Strengthening of monitoring networks and</td>
<td>IOW with UBA</td>
<td></td>
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<td>List any sub projects or feed in items required to deliver priority</td>
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<td></td>
<td>With other national priorities, regional initiatives and other result areas</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>activities. However the commitment of the Water Authorities to devote sufficient human resources to the action during the project would assure the sustainability of the know-how transfer.</td>
<td>laboratories. Surveys for developing the status classification system and for gap-filling</td>
<td></td>
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<td>With any relevant IO or donor projects</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The development of RBM Plan require typically an important involvement of interested parties at basin scale that will be structured based on basin committee practices under activity 3.1.2</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Detailed review and preparation of recommendations on improvement of the Government of Armenia Protocol Session Resolution (2011) on Outline of the Model River Basin Management Plans.</td>
<td>A reinforcement of RBM Planning practices may be necessary in order to better coordinate mid-term regional policy documents with investment programs, operational schemes and emergency plans. In the model, a stronger integration of the national strategy for climate change adaptation into the RBMPs could be sought. The identification of the tasks to be implemented respectively at national and basin levels would be relevant (i.e. GIS mapping, etc.)</td>
<td>The development of a model plan require typically an important involvement of interested parties at national scale that will be structured under the mechanism develop in activity 3.1.3</td>
<td>IOW with UBA</td>
<td>The validation of the model is expected ASAP. 2 deadline could be fixed: - Selection of the driving principles to be integrated in the new model plan and collection of examples by end of June 2017 - Development of model by the end of 2017</td>
<td>Need to better define and reinforce the legal status of RBMPs in regard to actions enforcement, Involvement of local communities (technical expertise, financial ownership...)</td>
<td>With other national priorities, regional initiatives and other result areas</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Support to international accreditation of the laboratory of the Environmental Monitoring and Information Centre of the Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia.</td>
<td>Based on existing and new equipment intensive analytical and quality management (ISO/IEC 17025) training will be provided to extend the international accreditation scope. In support of that, participation in proficiency testing schemes and performance of a pre-audit assessment.</td>
<td>Activities closely linked to RBMP development and surveys</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>With any relevant IO or donor projects</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Support in implementation of the selected measures from the program of measures of the River Basin Management Plan of the Akhuryan River Basin District of Armenia, which was formally adopted by the Government on March 9, 2017.</td>
<td>Implementation of measures requires the involvement of local stakeholders and a clear identification of their interest in the actions. The action will require to focus on exemplary action, reproducible in other basins and to be documented with guidelines. Local expertise can be envisaged to support the development of specific activities. However the commitment of the Water Authorities to devote sufficient human resources to the action during the project would assure the sustainability of the know-how transfer.</td>
<td>Final selection of exemplary action shall be made progressively in the project life time and in connection with the stakeholder involvement and the establishment of the dashboard to drive the implementation of the Akhuryan River Basin RBMPs (activity 2.3.7)</td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td>Is this deliverable within the project budget? Identify any compromises to be made in terms of scope.</td>
<td>With other national priorities, regional initiatives and other result areas. With any relevant IO or donor projects.</td>
<td>Complementarity to be checked with on-going projects on the Basin (USAID, KFW...)</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Support in introduction of certain provisions of the Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks (Floods Directive) in Armenia, including preliminary flood risk assessment of the entire territory of Armenia and preparation of corresponding flood hazard maps and flood risk maps, using the approaches and methodology of the EU Floods Directive.</td>
<td>The full scale implementation of the Flood Directive seems very challenging in regard to the current staffing of the Armenian partner institution and the project structure. A support to integrate its requirements in the RBMPs model and in Hrazdan and Sevan basins pilot plan can be done.</td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>60 K € required to be reserved on budget for server acquisition and local sub contracted activities</td>
<td>Complementarity to be checked with on-going projects on flood management</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Support in continued strengthening and enhancement of the State Water Cadastre Information System (SWCIS) of Armenia, including support in development of automatized data exchange with key partner institutions of the SWCIS (Hydromet, Environmental Monitoring and Information Centre, State Committee on Water Systems, Ministry of Health, etc.), as well as provision of GIS training of the corresponding specialists from the beneficiary institutions.</td>
<td>Activity 2.3.6 Developing automatized processing from water data producer to feed the water cadastre, and on line water cadastre valorization, in order to facilitate: - The production of information for RBMP following needs - The access to data for SEIS indicator production - A better access to data and information to partners and to the public (following rights given by the initial data producers)</td>
<td>First steps identified: - First demo of cadastre web mapping on OIEau’s server - Data national workshop - Metadata production - Automatic data flow</td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>- SEIS - KFW</td>
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- **Interpretation on basis of inception mission**: Provide any clarifications or interpretations made, does the country propose align with discussions on inception mission and the DoA (add reference to specific activity)?
- **Implementable within 4 years**: List only sub projects or feed in items required to deliver priority.
- **Implementable within budget**: Is this deliverable within the project budget? Identify any compromises to be made in terms of scope.
- **Synergies**: Organised firstly on hydrologic results.
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<td>23</td>
<td>Support to field works and desk studies in development an updated water balance for all 14 major hydrological river basins of Armenia.</td>
<td>Establishment of water balance on the Akhurian, Hrazdan and Sevan basin, including the need if relevant to establish water balance at sub-basin levels. Production of methodological work to be reproduced elsewhere outside the framework of the project. Directly linked to data gaps production. Data on water abstracted and data on water fees and taxes should not be monitored separately</td>
<td>To be coordinated with environmental flow calculation.</td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td>Is this deliverable within the project budget? Identify any compromises to be made in terms of scope</td>
<td>With other national priorities, regional initiatives and other result areas</td>
<td>With any relevant IO or donor projects</td>
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Reference number does not reflect rank of priority for the country

Provide any clarifications or interpretations made, does the country proposal align with discussions on inception mission and the DoA (add reference to specific activity)?

List any sub projects or feed in items required to deliver priority

To be developed in line with the model plan based on the efforts of integration of the national strategy for climate change adaptation into the RBMPs. For example, the identification of the tasks to be implemented respectively at national and basin levels should be harmonised.
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<td>Support to develop on the basis of EU Directives, legal and regulatory mechanism for application of IWRM incl. development of regulation for preparation of water allocation plans at basin, regional and national levels and RBMP (incl. regulation for division of country to basin districts, legal-regulatory basis for creation of basin institutions etc.)</td>
<td>OECD could support by developing a regulatory mechanism for development of allocation rules at the national level, with recommendations for its application at the basin level. OECD will also look into accompanying measures to strengthen efficient water allocation regulation, incl. economic instruments reform. This study will be supported with a training (see below).</td>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>Yes, but requires a careful scoping in terms of legal mechanisms</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Almost with all activities in the country. Based on priority n° 10, OIEau could work out a vision (concept + possible implementation schemes) of the possible articulation between the RBMP and its adaptation to Climate Change orientation with thematic plans as Flood RMP, scarcity/allocation and drought Possible pilot implementation action on local water sharing</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>...development of proposed in National Water Strategy of Azerbaijan the Water Sector Action Plan of Azerbaijan Republic and also support other issues related to the water policy, e.g. preparation of new draft laws and regulations</td>
<td>The above mentioned work will compose different chapters of the National Water Action Programme, in such a way addressing shortcomings of the National Water Strategy where these issues were not covered.</td>
<td>OECD will conduct a study on sustainable economic and financial mechanisms in place to ensure implementability of the water sector reforms in Azerbaijan in line with WFD principles.</td>
<td>OECD (UNECE to support, as necessary)</td>
<td>Yes, but, probably, there is a risk with the endorsement of the Water Action Programme by the Government</td>
<td>Yes but requires a careful scoping when identifying the content</td>
<td>Almost with all activities in the country OIEau &amp; UBA could provide a vision (concept + possible implementation schemes) for the different thematic and sectoral plans under RBM Planning, Monitoring, data management and stakeholder involvement mechanisms. This could feed the legislative work on priority n°5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reference number does not reflect rank of priority for the country. Interpretation on basis of inception mission: Provide any clarifications or interpretations made, does the country proposal align with discussions on inception mission and the DoA (add reference to specific activity)? Provide any clarifications or interpretations made, does the country proposal align with discussions on inception mission and the DoA (add reference to specific activity)?
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Provision of trainings on development and combined application of water allocation and river basin management plans for river basin and national levels</td>
<td>OECD could deliver a training on approaches to develop national water allocation priorities and rules, and on their application when developing water allocation plans at the basin level</td>
<td>List any sub projects or feed in items required to deliver priority</td>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>With other national priorities, regional initiatives and other result areas, With any relevant IO or donor projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Support to develop methodology for environmental flow</td>
<td>OECD could help addressing this priority through organising a regional workshop.</td>
<td>As it’s a priority coming across as a regional priority, could be addressed through a regional training</td>
<td>OECD could mobilise international expertise to conduct a regional workshop on this topic.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Possible contribution of a pilot implementation action on local water sharing plan based first on the definition of water available in a sustainable way based on environmental flow calculation in a sub-basin for surface water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 (1-1)</td>
<td>Project support for amendment to the Water Code of Azerbaijan Republic to manage water resources according to principles of IWRM and basin approach envisioned in EU WFD, EU flood Directive and other EU water related Directives</td>
<td>Revision of the 1997 Water Code to better reflect concepts of IWRM, relevant EU directives and the UNECE Water Convention</td>
<td></td>
<td>UNECE</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Almost with all activities in the country. See possible preparatory work based on priority n° 2</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>6 (1-3, 4-15, 4-19)</td>
<td>Support in the sphere of development of transboundary programs, plans and joint bodies and etc to implement bilateral agreement between Georgia and Azerbaijan on water resources based on principles of Water Convention and EU legislation. Application of Water Convention requirements in transboundary river basins by basin countries Cooperation with ongoing EU Twinning, UNDP GEF Kura-II and other projects is important (4-19)</td>
<td>Finalization of the Kura Agreement with Georgia and certain aspects of its implementation, in close coordination with upcoming GEF Kura-II project</td>
<td>This activity will build on past support from UNECE to the process of development of the Kura Agreement, done in cooperation with OSCE</td>
<td>UNECE</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>This activity responds to 3 country priorities -1-3, 4-15, 4-19 and is linked with priority 12 cited by Georgia. Close coordination with the upcoming GEF Kura-II project will be necessary. Link with work on Results 2-3 on RBMP and monitoring.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Support for implementation of Protocol on Water and Health to the UNECE Water Convention</td>
<td>Support to finalisation and adoption of the draft national targets if necessary, as well as capacity building through international/regional events</td>
<td></td>
<td>UNECE</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Support to implementation of the Water Convention</td>
<td>General support and assistance with ad-hoc requests, e.g. with respect to reporting under the Convention, participation in different working groups, engagement with the Implementation Committee</td>
<td></td>
<td>UNECE</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>With other national priorities, regional initiatives and other result areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Harmonization of legal, regulatory and other objectives of the EUWI+ and UNDP Kura II Projects, as well as assistance to and support for the Ministry of Ecology in adoption of such objectives at the national level.</td>
<td>Precise needs and plan to be clarified with MENR in due course.</td>
<td>Scope of harmonization pending on final results of ongoing Azerbaijan-EU negotiations.</td>
<td>UNECE</td>
<td>Still to be assessed</td>
<td>Still to be assessed</td>
<td>Linked to Priority 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Support for increasing of intersectoral cooperation to make joint decision on different aspects of water resources management</td>
<td>National Policy Dialogue platform can be used to enhance intersectoral cooperation. Modalities of cooperation (thematic working groups, etc.) can be further discussed.</td>
<td></td>
<td>All Partners</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Linked to act. 3.1.3 input of a national mechanism inspired by the EU OS including a Working Group structure managed by MoE involving the stakeholders concerned by the different work axis</td>
</tr>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Support in water resources management on the basis of IWRM principles (including development and implementation of basin level water allocation plans for national and transboundary river basins) and to develop and implement RBMP (including assistance on division of country into basin districts, development and implementation of RBMPs for the national and transboundary basin districts and in the sphere of creation and functioning of basin institutions and etc.) and also in the sphere of development of economic and financial mechanism for their implementation</td>
<td>Work out a governance vision for IWRM policy (concept + possible implementation schemes including division of country into basin districts, model RBMP plan, etc.) with possible articulation between the adaptation to Climate Change orientation of RBMP with thematic plans as Flood Risk Management Plan, scarcity/allocation strategy and drought risk management procedures</td>
<td>This essential priority to structure IWRM policy should be started first as it might influence the orientation of the work on development of RBMP in the pilot basin</td>
<td>IOWater</td>
<td>Yes will rely on good team work between the development by Azeri institutions and efficient knowledge transfer by MS experts</td>
<td>Yes on the methodological approach making clear the objective, role, stakeholder involvement mechanisms adapted to the Azeri context</td>
<td>Possibility to propose orientations to be transposed in the legislation under priority n° 5</td>
</tr>
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</table>

*Reference number does not reflect rank of priority for the country.*

- Interpretation on basis of inception mission
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- List any sub projects or feed in items required to deliver priority
- With any relevant IO or donor projects
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Support signing and implementation of bilateral agreement between Georgia and Azerbaijan on water resources, including creation and functioning of joint bodies and development and implementation of transboundary RBMPs on the basis of principles of Water Convention and EU WFD. It would be important to develop transboundary RBMP and water allocation plan for Kura river basin upstream of Mingechaur reservoir by support of EUWI+ project.</td>
<td>Support the harmonisation of the RBMP developed on both side of the AZ/GE boarder. Key concrete harmonisation items would be: - Harmonisation of the water bodies at the border and related monitoring - Data and information sharing - identification of international water issues beside quantitative issue - harmonisation of the program of measures tackling international water issues.</td>
<td>Impact any sub projects or feed in items required to deliver priority.</td>
<td>UNECE/IOWater</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Linked to Priority 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>A task group should be created in order to structure the operation in this project area by years and to select the contractors to purchase needed equipment.</td>
<td>Based on the needs assessment, necessary equipment and infrastructure will be purchased following a clear procurement procedure.</td>
<td>Based on the needs assessment.</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Support national and regional laboratories to meet international standards organizations requirements through rehabilitation of laboratories with modern equipment, to purchase of mobile equipment to measure preliminary water quality indicators at sites.</td>
<td>Based on an in-depth needs assessment laboratories infrastructure will be upgraded in terms of infrastructure, equipment and consumables. Based on existing and new equipment in the central lab,</td>
<td>The work will be linked closely with the RBMP development and the surveys. Mid to long-term availability of staff is</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Assistance towards building of central laboratory of ministry in accordance with ISO 17025 and for getting the certificate, to provide training to laboratory specialists according to these requirements</td>
<td>Interpretation on basis of inception mission Provide any clarifications or interpretations made, does the country proposal align with discussions on inception mission and the DoA (add reference to specific activity)?</td>
<td>Implication of priority List any sub projects or feed in items required to deliver priority</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>The activities in the 2nd area of the EUWI+ project regarding the establishment of new-approach for surface and ground water monitoring in accordance with the WRD requirements is very important to improve monitoring and assessment system at basin and national levels.</td>
<td>Interpretation on basis of inception mission Provide any clarifications or interpretations made, does the country proposal align with discussions on inception mission and the DoA (add reference to specific activity)?</td>
<td>Implication of priority List any sub projects or feed in items required to deliver priority</td>
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The activities in the 2nd area of the EUWI+ project regarding the establishment of new-approach for surface and ground water monitoring in accordance with the WRD requirements is very important to improve monitoring and assessment system at basin and national levels. Based on the products from the EPIRB pilot (Central Kura), development of a general WFD compliant monitoring strategy incl. guidance and implementation of GW and SW monitoring in the whole Upper Kura RBD (Kura, Alazani and Iori). Availability of staff UBA Yes yes
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<td>15</td>
<td>Field training for specialists on conducting of hydrochemistry, hydrobiology, and hydromorphology monitoring should be an important area of activity under the EUWI+ project which will increase their capacity on implementation of the WRD in Azerbaijan.</td>
<td>Surveys and transboundary surveys on all relevant WFD indicators for groundwater and surface water are integral parts of the project in strengthening monitoring capacities and developing and Implementing the RBMP. All surveys will be conducted as hands-on trainings with a major focus on quality assurance.</td>
<td>Availability of staff and appropriate equipment. Activity closely linked to RBMP development</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Support to create ground and surface water databases and to provide exchange of information</td>
<td>Activity 2.3.6 Developing automatized processing from water data producer to feed the cadastre, with valorisation of data on line in order to facilitate: - The production of information for RBMP following needs - The access to data among others for SEIS indicator production - A better access to data and information to partners and to the public (following rights given by the initial data producers)</td>
<td>First steps identified: - Server installation at Ministry level - Data national workshop - Metadata production - Support to online access to Water quality index resulting of water quality data process</td>
<td>IOWater</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>Requires on line server and a budget reserved for activities sub contracted to local expert</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

Synergies
- With other national priorities, regional initiatives and other result areas
- With any relevant IO or donor projects

- SEIS
  - Twinning project “upgrading the national environmental Monitoring System (NEMS)”
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<td>17</td>
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<td>Reference number does not reflect rank of priority for the country</td>
<td>Provide any clarifications or interpretations made, does the country proposal align with discussions on inception mission and the DoA (add reference to specific activity)?</td>
<td>Interpretation on basis of inception mission</td>
<td>See priority 17</td>
<td>Mutual willingness of AZ and GE to cooperate and share data. Status Classification System</td>
<td>UBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
<td>It is also important to conduct water monitoring and status assessment according to EU WFD on Kura, Araz, Ganikh(Alazan) and other transboundary rivers( according to monitoring programs and status assessment systems to be developed by support of the EUWI+ project) and use them during the development of RBMP and in other fields of water management.</td>
<td>List any sub projects or feed in items required to deliver priority</td>
<td>Implementable within 4 years</td>
<td>Based on priority n° 10 and the transposition of implementation scheme in the legislation under priority n° 5, on the job training will be provided in the pilot basin and a training program proposed tackling dissemination</td>
<td>IOWater in collaboration with other Partners</td>
<td>Possible contribution to the coordination of training under result 3 as stakeholder involvement instrument</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Project support for development by the project of series of documents (such as protocol on flooding and inundation to agreements) on protection and management of water resources of Kura, Araz and Samur rivers.</td>
<td>The scope of the priority seems too general to have a concrete impact</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Development of regulations (methodology, guidance) on form and mechanism of interagency (intersectorial) exchange of cadastre information on water bodies.</td>
<td>Activity 2.3.6 Developing automatized processing from water data producer to feed the water information system, with valorisation of data on line in order to facilitate: - The production of information for RBMP following needs - The access to data among others for SEIS indicator production - A better access to data and information to partners and to the public (following rights given by the initial data producers)</td>
<td>- Support by law preparation on cadastre, to be used among others as a source for RBMP / public information and to improve frequency of data exchange between stakeholders - Workshop on data management - Support to development of</td>
<td>IOWater</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>- SEIS</td>
<td></td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Support on Development of methodology on assessment of natural risks, such as flooding, droughts and landslides;</td>
<td>Only focus on water related risk (not landslides) Needs to be coordinated with the RBMP development Guidelines and training can be provided or possibly to be selected as pilot implementation action</td>
<td></td>
<td>IOWater</td>
<td>Yes for training/guidelines by MS experts</td>
<td>Yes for training/guidelines</td>
<td>Synergies with project on Flood Directive need to be checked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Support to apply precipitation-water model to one of pilot river basin to assess current water resources and future changes</td>
<td>Guidelines and training can be provided or possibly to be selected as pilot implementation action</td>
<td></td>
<td>IOWater</td>
<td>Yes for training/guidelines by MS experts</td>
<td>Yes for training/guidelines</td>
<td></td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Azerbaijan</td>
<td>3.1.3</td>
<td>Activity 3.1.3</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>IOWater</td>
<td>With other national priorities, regional initiatives and other result areas</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Azerbaijan</td>
<td>3.1.3</td>
<td>Activity 3.1.3</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>Availability of staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Azerbaijan</td>
<td>3.1.3</td>
<td>Activity 3.1.3</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>Availability of staff</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Support to conduct study on construction of water reservoirs on small rivers for IWRM and environmental flow purposes</td>
<td>Provide any clarifications or interpretations made, does the country proposal align with discussions on inception mission and the DoA (add reference to specific activity)?</td>
<td>List any sub projects or feed in items required to deliver priority</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>EUWI+ project is probably unable to finance implementation of this priority</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Support to develop approach for combined application of RBMP and water allocation plans, taking into account huge water infrastructure in Azerbaijan(reservoirs, canals and etc.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>EUWI+ project is probably unable to finance implementation of this priority</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Different WFD compliant monitoring programs need to be tested in different pilot river basins through conducting of field surveys together with project experts</td>
<td>See priority 15. All surveys are in compliance with WFD monitoring requirements and operated as hands-on trainings of national experts.</td>
<td>Availability of staff. Availability of appropriate monitoring infrastructure and equipment.</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>It is important to support to identify background conditions and also to develop and apply ecological status classification system of water bodies</td>
<td>The establishment of environmental objectives and the development of ecological status classification systems are integral part of RBMP development. The identification of reference conditions is the basis for surface water body delineation and typography.</td>
<td></td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Support for learning of experience of other countries (e.g. Belarus or EU member states) in the field of ecological status assessment for water bodies</td>
<td>It is envisaged to link biological experts from the region in training seminars and enable the exchange of experience and best practice.</td>
<td></td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>In connection with the Activity 3.1.4</td>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The development of the Water strategy of the Republic of Belarus for the period until 2030</td>
<td>Activity 1.1.4 Support to updating the National Water Strategy</td>
<td>Overview &amp; diagnostic of the water sector status, and of the implementation of the existing Water strategy until 2020; Annotated outline; draft Water Strategy *</td>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>2017: drafting the Water Strategy 2018-2020 support to the implementation of the Water Strategy (e.g. support of drafting by-laws)</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>Sectoral (branch) programmes on agri-food, energy, water transport, utility services, forestry and fishery. Required inputs from other partners &amp; result areas: - from UNECE: on trans-boundary issues - from Result 2: on RBMPs, monitoring and data systems. - from Result 3: communication tools; and - from all partners: on local capacity development</td>
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<td>With other national priorities, regional initiatives and other result areas as With any relevant IO or donor projects</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Support to updating the targets set under the Protocol on Water and Health</td>
<td>Proposed by the Ministry of Public Health</td>
<td>The new targets to be included into the National Report under the Protocol on Water and Health, which will be prepared in early 2019 for the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (October-November 2019)</td>
<td>UNECE</td>
<td>2017-2018</td>
<td>Yes, but depends on the scope of work under other activities</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Support to the creation and activities of basin councils</td>
<td>Activity 3.1.2</td>
<td></td>
<td>OIWater</td>
<td></td>
<td>The activities of basin council will be closely related to the RBMP activities on Dnieper and Pripyat under Result 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Support to the creation and activities of trans-boundary basin councils (preferably jointly with Ukraine, e.g. the Dnieper and Pripyat basins)</td>
<td>International agreement for coordinated efforts on the Dnieper and Pripyat could be assessed by the UNECE; Exchange between technical teams working on RBM planning could be supported by Activity 3.1.4 in synergy with the work of national thematic working groups in BY and UA. Basin councils are not a common practice in trans-boundary basin, but based on the concept and international examples a mechanism adapted to the situation can be proposed</td>
<td>Sustainable exchange mechanism between interested parties will rely on an international agreement defining the scope and practicalities</td>
<td>UNECE &amp; IOWater</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>UNECE involvement will depend on the scope of work under other activities</td>
<td>IOWater &amp; UBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>The development of the River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) for the Pripyat river (sub-basin of Dnieper)</td>
<td>Activity 2.3.2</td>
<td></td>
<td>IOWater &amp; UBA</td>
<td>yes</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Belarus</td>
<td>Update and correction of the RBMP for the Dnieper River</td>
<td>Activities 2.3.1. and 2.3.2.</td>
<td>Assessment of the influence of climate changes on water resources; updating and correcting the programme of measures; conducting the economic analysis</td>
<td>IOWater</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Knowledge development for Pripyat RBMP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Belarus</td>
<td>Inspection of the waste water treatment facilities of the dwelling settlements, located in the basin of the Pripyat River, and development of guidelines on how to improve the work of these facilities</td>
<td>Proposals may be elaborated based on the sectoral (branch) approach to making use of local water resources. They may be used both for helping in implementing the RBMP of Dnieper, and when drafting a Programme of Measures (PoM) for new RBPMs</td>
<td></td>
<td>IOWater</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>In combination with Activity 2.3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Belarus</td>
<td>To design the methodological documents on how to define strongly changes and artificial water bodies and assess the ecological potential of them in compliance with the approaches of the WFD of the EU</td>
<td>The methodology help, manuals and training. The designing of RBMPs includes, among other aspects, the analysis of typology, delineation of water objects, description thereof, and assessment of loads and impacts – in the form of technical training</td>
<td></td>
<td>IOWater &amp; UBA</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>UBA on Results 2</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>To design the national methodology of assessing the impacts of diffused pollution sources on surface water bodies</td>
<td>The methodology may be tested on the experience of the pilot basin</td>
<td>UBA &amp; IO Water</td>
<td>Yes, for the knowledge transfer in a pilot basin</td>
<td>Yes, for the knowledge transfer</td>
<td>Link with activity 2.3.2. (RBMP development)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Express survey of the status and outlook for use of water resources and development of water systems in the Kopyl rayon, Minsk oblast</td>
<td>Proposal from Parliament; pilot activities at basin level</td>
<td>Survey of water resources &amp; infrastructure</td>
<td>OECD &amp; Result 2</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>NSSD, SDGs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Execution of the field surveys of surface and underground water bodies not covered by regular observations to determine their chemical and ecological status</td>
<td>This is covered under the strengthening of the monitoring as well as by field surveys</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Monitoring of surface and groundwater in the area Hotislavskoe mineral deposits on the territory of Belarus and Ukraine. Development of a mathematical model of the flow of surface and ground water to assess the possible trans-boundary impacts</td>
<td>The collection of available data and information for the development of a conceptual understanding on groundwater flow and the interaction with surface waters and trans-boundary surveys are integral part of the development of RBMPs.</td>
<td>Mutual willingness of BY and UA to cooperate and provide and share information. The development of a mathematical model depends on the availability of sufficient data.</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>Monitoring: Yes</td>
<td>Monitoring: Yes</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Conducting studies to assess the presence of priority pollutants in the surface water and bottom sediments. Development of recommendations on monitoring of priority pollutants in Belarus</td>
<td>This is fully covered under the strengthening of the monitoring and the laboratory as well as by field surveys</td>
<td>Pressure and impact (=risk) assessment</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Selection of laboratory equipment for improving the process of monitoring surface and ground waters; and organization of delivery thereof to Belarus</td>
<td>This is completely covered by the strengthening of monitoring and work of laboratories, as well as by field examinations</td>
<td>Purchase/update of the equipment; the available personnel</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>To design the national document (a manual or an instruction) on running the hydromorphological monitoring in Belarus with account of approaches of the WFD of the EU</td>
<td>The document should regulate all the stages of hydromorphological monitoring with the aim to prepare the data to be used for assessing the ecological status of surface water bodies</td>
<td></td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td></td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Provision of support to the conduction of expert meetings and research activities on the transboundary Neman river as part of preparations for the upcoming Global Environment Facility (GEF) project. Provision of support in building dialogue with Latvia and Russia on the transboundary basin of the Western Dvina/Daugava through the organization of international meetings and an assessment of opportunities and benefits of cooperation.</td>
<td>Provide any clarifications or interpretations made, does the country proposal align with discussions on inception mission and the DoA (add reference to specific activity)?</td>
<td>List any sub projects or feed in items required to deliver priority</td>
<td>UNECE</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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Under the Neman, UNECE will continue to support bilateral cooperation between Belarus and Lithuania, based on results of previous projects. For the work on the Western Dvina/Daugava, as one option an application of UNECE methodology to assess the benefits of cooperation could be chosen.
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<td>17</td>
<td>Belarus</td>
<td>To hold analysis of collecting and presenting data about the status of water resources of Belarus. To draft guidelines on improving the existing system of collecting and presenting data within the system of the State Water Cadastre, and monitoring of surface and ground waters (including local monitoring) of the national system of Environmental monitoring. To design and test, taking the river basin of Pripyat the software for running an interactive map of the river basin, based on the Web-platform, which reflects the status of water bodies</td>
<td>Activity 2.3.6</td>
<td>IOW</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Belarus</td>
<td>The development of the national document (manual or instruction) on the monitoring procedure of groundwater in the conditions violated by exploitation</td>
<td>The available monitoring guidance from EPIRB will be reviewed and if necessary extended by monitoring aspects in areas of higher pollution or exploitation.</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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Implication of priority
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Responsible Implementing Partner

Implementable
Is this deliverable within the project budget and time frame? Identify any compromises to be made in terms of scope

Within 4 years

Within budget

Synergies
With other national priorities, regional initiatives and other result areas. With any relevant IO or donor projects

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<td>OECD, UNECE</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Possible support under R2 “planning” to develop examples of architecture of the strategy based on EU directive principles and adaptation proposal to the Georgian context</td>
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<tr>
<td>Result 1</td>
<td></td>
<td>The country proposal fully aligns with the discussions held during the inception mission.</td>
<td>To develop a solid section of NWS on allocation rules, OECD will conduct a study to support developing a national allocation plan</td>
<td>OECD, UNECE to assist</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>A final agreement on issues to be covered by the strategy will influence the scope of additional work to be implemented</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Develop the National Water Strategy (NWS), including water allocation plan for different sectors and water users, oriented towards the water security, energy efficiency and effective irrigation schemes</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Draft a by-law to the new Law on Water Resources Management on Economic Instrument for Water Resources Management</td>
<td>This will build on the study conducted by OECD/EPIRB in 2016</td>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Work on development of the law could be started only towards completion of the OECD national study</td>
<td>Possible support under R2 “planning” on financing strategy to implement the program of measures of the RBMP</td>
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<td>Develop a concept, or normative document defining institutional model for River Basin Management structure, possibly by (re) establishing regional units of the MENRP on the basis of major watersheds/basin districts</td>
<td>As it relates to defining an institutional model for RBM structure at the national level, OECD could help with the OECD countries experience review. On the basis of the review, OECD would develop a corresponding chapter in the NWS on the acceptable model for Georgia.</td>
<td>Top priority in order to work on sustainable basis</td>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Possible synergy with R2 and R3</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Harmonize the draft Law on Water Resources Management with the draft law on Environmental Impact Assessment /Strategic Environmental Assessment and other laws, in accordance with EU legislation and international standards</td>
<td>This seems to be a rather urgent request for 2017. UNECE is ready to assist and will engage with Georgia to formulate the scope of work.</td>
<td></td>
<td>UNECE</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Prepare initial assessment and roadmap (if necessary) for ratification of the UNECE Protocol on Water and Health, develop national targets under the Protocol</td>
<td>Draft national targets were prepared in 2016 with support of UNECE. The process needs to be finalized. UNECE can provide support in initial assessment and preparation of a roadmap for ratification of the Protocol on Water and Health.</td>
<td>The work will build on previous support of UNECE to Georgia with regards to the Protocol on Water and Health.</td>
<td>UNECE</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Prepare and start negotiation on bilateral agreement with Armenia on transboundary cooperation</td>
<td>To support this activity and priority 13 below, UNECE can support the conduct of a transboundary Khrami-Debed basin assessment jointly with Armenia. Though for Armenia this is not currently listed among country priorities, the issue was raised at the last NPD SC meetings in Armenia and Georgia.</td>
<td>Conduct transboundary Khrami-Debed basin assessment jointly with Armenia and seek reaching bilateral agreement(s) for the basin</td>
<td>UNECE</td>
<td>Assessment implementable within 4 years.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Links with Armenia priorities 2, 5, 6 (as appear in the country list) and Georgia priorities 4, 11 (country list). Possible links to RBMP work under Result 2 if the Khrami-Debed Basin is selected for RMBP preparation</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Draft normative acts on urban waste-water management (sludge production and treatment, establishment of drinking water and other water protection zones, pre-treatment of industrial wastewaters etc.)</td>
<td>Pending on further clarification and then to be seen how it can be phased</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Revise developed draft normative act “On water quality ecological standards”</td>
<td>UNECE can support the revision of the draft normative act.</td>
<td></td>
<td>UNECE</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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List any sub projects or feed in items required to deliver priority

Responsible Implementing Partner

Implementable within 4 years
Is this deliverable within the project budget? Identify any compromises to be made in terms of scope

Implementable within budget

Synergies
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<td>9</td>
<td>Develop relevant by-laws in accordance with the Black Sea related legislation after the transposition of MSFD into the national legislation has been implemented</td>
<td>Pending on implementation of EMBLAS and then to be seen how it can be phased</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Prepare programme of measures to achieve good environmental status of the coastal waters of the Black Sea</td>
<td>Pending on implementation of EMBLAS and requirements of funds for it.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Results 2 and 3</td>
<td>Develop Water Information System (WIS), focusing on populating and testing the data on water abstraction, discharge, hydrological flow and balances, water quality, water use permits, etc., primarily for the pilot basin districts of Alazani-Iori, Khrami-Debed and Chorokhi-Ajaristskali, and possibly for other Districts, upon data availability</td>
<td>Activity 2.3.6: Developing automatized processing from water data producer to feed the water information system, with valorisation of data on line in order to facilitate: - The production of information for RBMP following needs - The access to data for SEIS indicator production - A better access to data and information to partners and to the public (following rights given by the initial data producers)</td>
<td>First steps identified: - First demo of cadastre web mapping on OIEau's server - Data national workshop - Metadata production - Automatic data flow organised firstly on surface water quality data</td>
<td>IOWater</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>UNDP project SEIS</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Develop full scale WFD compliant River Basin Management Plan for the Alazani-Iori Basin District (transboundary with Azerbaijan)</td>
<td>Based on the achievements (methodologies, guidance) of EPIRB, development of a RBMP in the Alazani-Iori Basin (transboundary with Azerbaijan is to be considered). Specific technical trainings are envisaged in terms of typology, water body delineation, characterisation, monitoring, establishment of assessment regime and risk and status assessment). Human resources need to be developed in the agencies in charge of water management, and in particular in the Ministry</td>
<td>Upgrade of equipment and training. Availability of staff. Status Classification System surveys Gap-filing survey</td>
<td>IOWater/UBA</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Link with AZ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Develop full scale WFD compliant River Basin Management Plan for the Khrami-Debed Basin District (transboundary with Armenia)</td>
<td>Based on the achievements (methodologies, guidance) of EPIRB, development of a RBMP in the Alazani-Iori Basin (transboundary with Azerbaijan is to be considered). Specific technical trainings are envisaged in terms of typology, water body delineation, characterisation, monitoring, establishment of assessment regime and risk and status assessment). Human resources need to be developed in the agencies in charge</td>
<td>Upgrade of equipment and training. Availability of staff. Status Classification System surveys Gap-filing survey</td>
<td>IOWater/UBA</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Develop monitoring scheme of transboundary joint field surveys (TJFSs) to support implementation of the Bilateral Agreement with Azerbaijan. The TJFS shall assess the seasonal water status (chemical and ecological) of the Kura River downstream of Tbilisi</td>
<td>This is foreseen under activity 2.3.4 and implemented as trainings. This priority can be partially addressed through support to the finalization of agreement on Kura river with Azerbaijan and assistance with selected aspects of its implementation</td>
<td>Bilateral agreement with AZ to cooperate. Available staff capacities, equipment and assessment scheme. This activity can build on past support from UNECE to the process of development of the Kura Agreement</td>
<td>UBA, UNECE for possible support for finalization of the Kura Agreement</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>With other national priorities, regional initiatives and other result areas, With any relevant IO or donor projects</td>
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**Note:** Reference number does not reflect rank of priority for the country.

**Implication on basis of inception mission:** Provide any clarifications or interpretations made, does the country proposal align with discussions on inception mission and the DoA (add reference to specific activity)?

**Implication of priority:** List any sub projects or feed in items required to deliver priority.
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Support implementation of Programme of Measures of the Chorokhi-Ajaristskali RBMP</td>
<td>Support to pilot demonstration actions on selected soft measures</td>
<td>Actions selected in line with country priorities and with participative process with the basin council</td>
<td>IOWater</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes within limited budget</td>
<td>In synergy with R3 and priorities 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Extend the draft Coastal Assessment of the Chorokhi-Ajaristskali RBMP to develop the full scale Coastal Management Plan for the basin district</td>
<td>Depending on the needs/gaps, implementation of technical aspects by IZOR in the form of trainings (water body delineation, characterisation, monitoring and assessment)</td>
<td>Full scale management plan is very demanding.</td>
<td>UBA with OIWater</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Synergies with implementation in UA. Potential synergies with EMBLAS on monitoring and laboratories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Delineation/ update and typological classification of Surface Water Bodies (SWBs) in accordance of the System-B of WFD</td>
<td>This priority is covered under priorities 12 and 13 within the development of RBMPs for Alazani-Iori and Khrami-Debed - in form of trainings</td>
<td>Available staff capacities</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Linked with typology in AZ for Alazani-Iori RBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Methodological support in establishing national indicators for water-related SDGs, data collection, monitoring and reporting</td>
<td>Activity 1.1.1.</td>
<td>Ongoing work by UNDP to provide feed in</td>
<td>UNECE Supported by OECD</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>UNDP office leads a process to develop domestic SDG priorities, to be checked where EUWI+ could provide added value (UNDP contact - Alexandru Oprunencu). SDGs implementation in MLD IOWater: Possible support to integrate the SDGs to the dashboard on PoM implementation to be work out under “planning”.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Support the implementation of the National Policy Dialogue in the Republic of Moldova. Assist in necessary secretarial activities and provide logistical support to the Coordinating Committee, support in revising and updating the composition of the Coordinating Committee and its Regulation and Work Plans. Ensure good NPD coordination and a better synchronization of activities through regular exchanges of information among key stakeholders</td>
<td>Activity 1.1.2.</td>
<td>Regular NPD CC meetings; multi-stakeholder &amp; expert meetings as required</td>
<td>OECD UNECE</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>All Result areas and water-related projects in Moldova would inform the NPD</td>
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**3**

**Review of existing water legislation and normative documents and develop proposals for their improvement (e.g. Water Law, Government Decisions approving the Regulations on Environmental Quality requirements for surface and ground waters; requirements for water discharge in water bodies; taxes for water resources)**

**Activity 1.1.4.**

**Results of ongoing (Spring 2017) situation analysis by SDC-ADA project to inform further actions**

**UNECE**

**yes**

**yes**

Close coordination with ongoing projects of other donors is key, especially SDC and ADA (coordinator – Cyrille Vallett)

**IOWater:** Possibility to propose technical orientations for the legislation by sectoral expert involved in RBM Planning and monitoring

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**4**

**Support in development of the mid-term Action Plan (for 2019-2023) for the national Water Supply and Sanitation Strategy**

**Activity 1.1.4.**

**Replication of methodology applied for developing a similar mid-term AP for WSS in 2009-10. The AP will provide input to the future Master Plan for WSS in Moldova.**

**OECD**

**yes**

**yes**

Input from Results 2, 3, and UNECE: on small scale WSS systems

**IOWater:** Possibility to propose technical orientations by sectoral experts on domestic waters involved in RBM Planning

This activity will provide a useful input to revised RBMPs
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<td>5a</td>
<td>Enhancing the economic regulatory system (ERS) for the water sector in Moldova (incl. the completion of the on-going studies led by the OECD)</td>
<td>Activity 1.1.4.</td>
<td>On-going studies being finalised by the OECD: - on ERS for WSS; and - on new norms for small-scale WSS systems.</td>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
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| 5b                | (i) Enhancing the use of economic instruments for WRM (ii) Assisting the Ministry of Environment in developing or improving the Methodology for monetary evaluation of damage for water resources and water bodies. | Activity 1.1.4. | (i) Studies on charges or taxes on water abstraction to manage water quantity issues; and on establishing a dedicated Water Fund.  
(ii) This activity could replicate the approach applied by the OECD / GREEN Action Programme for developing a similar | OECD | yes | yes | OECD / GREEN Action Programme  
The studies will contribute to a more conducive environment for implementing RBMPs  
IOWater: Possible support under “planning” on financing strategy to implement the program of measures of the RBMP |
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<td>6</td>
<td>Support in revising and improving the existing identification, delineation and classification of water bodies and revising the list of water bodies in the Danube-Prut and Black Sea District (in coordination with Romania).</td>
<td>The review of the Prut RBMP and the development of the Danube–Prut and Black Sea RBMP includes i.a. review of typology, review of GW bodies, transfer of surface water body delineation from system A to B and the classification of the water bodies based in the form of technical trainings. Furthermore, in the light of the common umbrella plan transboundary harmonisation with Romania is envisaged.</td>
<td>Mutual willingness of MD, RO (and eventually UA) to cooperate and share information.</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>IOWater: Possible synergies with R2&amp;3 in case of practical activities on harmonisation of the riparian water bodies delineation on the Prut main course at the MD/RO border to facilitate shared vision and collaborative monitoring. Possible transfer of the working method of the Escault commission to tackle such objective under R3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Support in implementation of selected measures from the National Programme to implement national targets under the Protocol on Water and Health</td>
<td>Activity 1.1.4.</td>
<td>The programme was adopted in 2016 as a result of the UNECE project funded by SDC. The activity will build on this work.</td>
<td>UNECE</td>
<td>Yes, but measures should be selected realistically</td>
<td>Yes, but measures should be selected realistically</td>
</tr>
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<td>With other national priorities, regional initiatives and other result areas</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Assisting in fulfilling country’s obligation under the Association Agreement (to facilitate implementation of the MoEnv Plan of Activity and the National Plan for AA Implementation)</td>
<td>Activity 1.1.4. See new proposed priorities under 8.1 and 8.2</td>
<td>Too broad formulation - to be elaborated at this moment, requires clarification and discussion</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Linked to results of priority activity #3.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

8.1 Functional analysis of the institutions with attributions to water sector and their capacities in line with the obligations deriving from the Association Agreement | It’s our understanding that ADA(?) is currently preparing a proposal about institutional arrangements and needs – to be clarified before any decision by EUWI+ to avoid duplication | | | | | |

8.2 Development of Implementation Plans for EU Directives in the Republic of Moldova | Scope to be negotiated with the Ministry before decision about EUWI+ involvement | | | | | Linked with priorities 3, 4 |

To be coordinated also with ADA, SDC to avoid overlaps
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<td>9</td>
<td>Providing support and assistance in fulfilling the country’s obligations, including reporting, under water-related international Conventions and Protocols (Water Convention, Danube Convention, Ramsar Convention, Protocol on Water and Health).</td>
<td>Activity 1.1.4.</td>
<td>Sounds very broad; Requires clarification</td>
<td>UNECE</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Support to implementation of the Dniester treaty with Ukraine by organizing bilateral exchange and joint planning of activities.</td>
<td>Activity 1.1.4.</td>
<td>Will build on the results of ENVSEC projects. Coordination with upcoming GEF project will be necessary.</td>
<td>OECD: on strategic planning, economic and financial issues With input from other partners:</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Trainings needed on themes like: - legislative, economic, and RBM/IWRM issues - cost recovery of water services</td>
<td>Activity 1.2.2.</td>
<td>National training needs / Specific topics to be further clarified as well as participation in Regional trainings</td>
<td>OECD: on strategic planning, economic and financial issues With input from other partners:</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Support in finalization the automation of the 15 hydrological points of the national hydrological monitoring network, which are activating now in classical regime (not automated).</td>
<td>Based and depending on the assessment of gaps and needs towards WFD compliant monitoring, infrastructure and equipment will be purchased and upgraded to strengthening the monitoring network.</td>
<td>Outcome of needs assessment: UBA</td>
<td>Depends on identified needs</td>
<td>Depends on identified needs</td>
<td>Close coordination with ongoing projects of other donors is key, especially SDC and ADA (coordinator – Cyrille Vallett)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Procurement and installation of 3 automatic qualitative monitoring stations on Prut River as follows: - Sireti Village/Urcani town – North part, at entrance of Prut River on the territory of Moldova, border with Ukraine and Romania; - Ungheni Town – after input of several agglomerations; - Giurgiulesti Village – at confluence with Danube River and at border with Romania. Also, in this point there is situated Giurgiulesti International Free Port – Oil Product Terminal owned and operated by Danube Logistics. *</td>
<td>See priority 12</td>
<td>See priority 12</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>Depends on identified needs</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Installing/construction of 2 hydrological stations: Dniester (Ustia) and Prut (Ungheni)</td>
<td>See priority 12</td>
<td>See priority 12</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>See priority 12</td>
<td>See priority 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>On Dniester River there are hydrological automatic stations in Naslavcea (North) and Tudora (South) Villages and in these points the stations can be only completed with quality sensors for pH, turbidity, ORP, dissolved oxygen, electroconductivity, nutrients, chlorophyll „a”, blue-green algae, etc. In the center, on Dniester River – downstream Dubasari water reservoir or near Vadul lui Voda Town, which represents a recreation zone, will be good to have also an automatic monitoring station with basic parameters in order to know daily the quality of water people are bathing in or taking for potable purpose.*</td>
<td>See priority 12</td>
<td>See priority 12</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>See priority 12</td>
<td>See priority 12</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Procurement and installing of automatic hydrological stations for water reservoirs (ex. Ghidighici, Costesti and Mingir);</td>
<td>See priority 12</td>
<td>See priority 12</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>See priority 12</td>
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*Note: The asterisk indicates a critical or sensitive information that requires specific handling or additional context.
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<td>Installation of a system of on-line visualisation (video cameras) for assuring the access of users to data on the state of water surface on hydrological points</td>
<td>Needs to be clarified during the assessment of gaps and needs towards WFD compliant monitoring, infrastructure and equipment</td>
<td>Outcome of needs assessment</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>Depends on identified needs</td>
<td>With other national priorities, regional initiatives and other result areas</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Improving monitoring of groundwater: - To clarify the chemical status of ground water bodies of Danube and Black Sea basins to carry out field research sampling from monitoring wells for laboratory tests. - Rehabilitation (cleaning) of existing monitoring boreholes. Service monitoring wells was not made more than 20 years. Within the project EPIRB 15 wells have been served in the Prut River Basin. - Installation of automatic data loggers in monitoring boreholes to achieve a greater understanding of the aquifer response to natural and anthropogenic events. - Assisting for design and</td>
<td>See priority 12. The strengthening of the groundwater monitoring network is complemented by field surveys for gap filling and to allow for risk and status assessment.</td>
<td>See priority 12. Infrastructure and equipment is purchased.</td>
<td>UBA &amp; IOWater (database)</td>
<td>Depends on identified needs</td>
<td>With any relevant IO or donor projects</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Equipping the national monitoring laboratory (SWQMC and CPAC within EQMD) with modern equipment for pollutants determination, for example: atomic absorption spectrometer for heavy metals in water and sediments; triple quadrupole gas chromatograph/MS with automatic sampler for priority substances detection (OCP, PAH, PCB, volatile compounds, etc), spectrophotometer</td>
<td>Based on an in-depth needs assessment to comply with the WFD requirements the laboratory will be upgraded in terms of infrastructure, equipment and consumables.</td>
<td>Mid to long-term availability of staff is guaranteed.</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>Depends on identified needs</td>
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- Maintenance of databases for groundwater in accordance with international standards and requirements. Currently, the monitoring data is stored in Excel format.
- Drilling new monitoring borehole. The current number of wells is not enough for the comprehensive groundwater monitoring.
- Groundwater database. The ability to use the hydro geological modelling techniques for predicting the risk of depletion of groundwater resources as a consequence of their exploitation.
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<td>20</td>
<td>UV/VIS, titrator for water environmental analytics, stereomicroscope with soft and camera, inverted phase contrast microscope invertoscope, colony counter (microbiology), BOD incubator, as well as other indispensable equipment as laboratory glassware washer, hot plates, water distillatory unit, deionizer, etc.*</td>
<td>Based on an in-depth needs assessment to comply with the WFD requirements the sampling and analytical capacities will be upgraded in terms of infrastructure, equipment and consumables.</td>
<td>Depends on identified needs</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>Depends on identified needs</td>
<td>With any relevant IO or donor projects</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Organising proficiency testing for the 6 countries in the project by contracting an international PT reference laboratory, which will be independent and will ensure confidentiality. These tests could include biological parameters like chlorophyll a, nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen groups), specific pollutants like petroleum products, phenols, anionic surfactants, as well as priority substances (heavy metals, insecticides and pesticides).</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Also, one huge necessity consists of ensuring the laboratories with chemical reagents, certified and traceable reference materials, pure solvents and gases and other laboratory consumables, which would probably cost 1 mln lei/45500 Euro per year depending on the monitoring program established.</td>
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| 23                | Designing a Monitoring Programme for surface and ground waters in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and Nitrate Directive, for the Danube-Prut and Black Sea District | Full monitoring network assessment will be undertaken. Design and potential extension of the monitoring programmes are integral parts of the RBMP development. Support to the responsible organisations and the monitoring programmes will be provided in terms of equipment and training towards compliance with the WFD requirements. | Based on results of EPIRB project | UBA | Yes | With other national priorities, regional initiatives and other result areas
With any relevant IO or donor projects |
<p>| 24                | Trainings for capacity building in areas like: - Quality assurance, quality control in laboratories including also traceability starting with sampling and finishing with analyses and data management; - Method validation and uncertainty evaluation for water quality methods; - Methods of determining priority substances in water and | Main emphasis of the project is intensive hands-on training on quality management (ISO/IEC 17025) and method validation in the laboratory, on quality assured sampling, on the use of new and upgraded equipment, on methods for further priority substances and on the monitoring and | Availability of sufficient educated staff. New and upgraded equipment. | UBA | Yes |</p>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Providing assistance in defining, improving and promoting the River Basin Management Plan for Danube-Prut and Black Sea District (draft elaborated within EPIRB Project). Development of a dashboard for following up the implementation of this plan. Improve coordination with other sectoral planning processes.</td>
<td>- Determination of organisms until species for macroinvertebrates and phytoplankton in order to improve the quality of biological monitoring and the evaluation of results. Also, there will be included some elements on how to accredit the biological elements and how to participate in proficiency testing. Introduction in fish monitoring. - Assessing background concentrations of certain chemical substances in surface waters. assessment of all WFD related biological quality elements.</td>
<td>Based on the results of the EPIRB project</td>
<td>IOWater</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>- Stakeholder involvement under R3 - Sectoral planning documents - Swiss-ADA project and other cooperation projects - n°1, 4, 7, 11 and 26-32</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Development of the Flood Risk Management Plan for the Danube-Prut and Black Sea District.</td>
<td>IOWater: A project funded by EIB established a flood master plan, but it needs to be improved. - Needs to be coordinated with the Prut RBMP. - Coherent with activity 2.3.2 of the DoA Guidelines and training can be provided on this topic</td>
<td>IS in place and needed data available in real time</td>
<td>IOWater</td>
<td>Yes if selected as pilot action</td>
<td>- RBMP - EAST AVERT project, &quot;Danube Connects&quot; project and other cooperation projects - n°25, 27</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Development of a Concept of Early Warning System in exceptional circumstances.</td>
<td>IOWater: - Coherent with activity 2.3.2 of the DoA - Guidelines and training can be provided on this topic - To be coordinated with activity 2.3.6 data management of the DoA - To be developed in coordination with the activities and tools from the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River on this topic</td>
<td>Yes if selected as pilot action</td>
<td>IOWater</td>
<td>Yes if selected as pilot action</td>
<td>- EAST AVERT project, &quot;Danube Connects&quot; project, ENI SEIS II East project and other cooperation projects - n°12, 14, 16, 17, 23, 25, 26</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Development of an Action Plan for water protection against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources, including:</td>
<td>IOWater: - To be developed in parallel of the RBMP and in coherence with the Nitrate Directive Better knowledge of the water quality needed -&gt; link with priority 23 and the qualitative monitoring network</td>
<td>Results for the qualitative monitoring</td>
<td>IOWater</td>
<td>Yes if selected as pilot action</td>
<td>- n°23, 25</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Identification of vulnerable zones in the Danube-Prut and Black Sea District, according to Nitrate Directive</td>
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<td>- Elaboration of a Code of Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources</td>
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<td></td>
<td>A. Provide trainings</td>
<td>IOWater: - Human resources need to be developed in the agencies in charge of water management, and in particular in the Apele Moldovei Agency: specific trainings are provided on some technical issues</td>
<td>Identification of training needs and of a stable team of experts to train -&gt; establishment of a training program</td>
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<td>- Cooperation projects providing these types of training as GEF/UNDP - n° 25, 26, 27</td>
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<td>- for hydrologists</td>
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<td>- in hydromorphological evaluation of the water bodies;</td>
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<td>- in flood and drought management;</td>
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<td>B. Implement GIS Training, in particular for:</td>
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<td>- Mapping wastewater discharge points for district Prut-Danube-Black Sea. Develop GIS layers respective capture and wastewater discharge.</td>
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<td>- Delimitation and inventory</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Reassessment of water resources at basin and sub-catchments under climate change. Develop a draft of water allocation plan for sub-basin level from DPBS river district (water balance)</td>
<td>Activity 2.3.2. IOWater: - To be developed jointly with the water cadastre (no 31) - Depending on the available data First step: assessment of water resources at basin scale, without considering climate change.</td>
<td>Hypothesis and models available for climate change</td>
<td>IOWater</td>
<td>Yes if selected as pilot action</td>
<td>- Swiss-ADA project and other cooperation projects - no 12, 14, 16, 17, 18, 23, 25, 31, 32</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>Develop harmonised RBMP on the River Prut jointly with Romania and Ukraine following ICPDR coordination. Exchange of experience with colleagues from UA and RO, taking the experience also from EU countries (France, Austria)</td>
<td>Activity 2.3.3. Support to the development/improvement of a Prut umbrella plan under coordination of the ICPDR. IOWater: - Few consultation activities exist. - Some parts of the respective national RBMP are not coherent High added value experience exchange, in particular from Romania which is a new EU member.</td>
<td>Establishment appropriate connexion to ICPDR coordination</td>
<td>IOWater</td>
<td>Yes will rely on good team work between the development by Moldova institutes and efficient know how transfer by MS experts</td>
<td>- “Danube connects” project - Bilateral agreements with Romania and Ukraine - n°25, 37, 38</td>
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<td>32</td>
<td>Support in developing the Water Cadastre and its link with SIRA (Informational System of Water Resources) – eg. a pilot Ciuhur River</td>
<td>Activity 2.3.6. IOWater: - Agency “Apele Moldovei” is responsible for preparing and editing the State Water Cadastre, but due to various reasons (lack of financing, human resources, etc.), it still remains to be done.</td>
<td>First steps identified: - Data - national workshop - Metadata production - Automatic data flow organised firstly on surface water quality data</td>
<td>IOWater</td>
<td>Yes will rely on good team work between the development by Moldova institutions and efficient know how transfer by</td>
<td>Requires on line server and a budget reserved for activities sub contrac-</td>
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<td>33</td>
<td>Updating the existing reporting process and data collection on water use, compliant with SEIS and WISE principles according to WFD requirements and other directives (new questionnaires)</td>
<td>Support processes to allow the feeding of the SIRA/Water cadastre from water data producers, with online valorisation of data in order to facilitate: - The production of information for RBMP following needs - The access to data among others for SEIS indicator production A better access to data and information to partners and to the public (following rights given by the initial data producers)</td>
<td>Included in 32</td>
<td>MS experts</td>
<td>Included in 4 years</td>
<td>With other national priorities, regional initiatives and other result areas With any relevant IO or donor projects</td>
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Activity 2.3.6. IOWater: Included in 32
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<td>34</td>
<td>Developing a guidance document showing the data holders and establishing the mechanism for public access to water management information</td>
<td>Activity 3.1.1. IOWater: - To be developed jointly with the water cadastre (n°32) and repositing process (n°33) In line with the result 3.1 (part of a Communication Strategy) and the DoA</td>
<td></td>
<td>IOWater</td>
<td>Yes will rely on good team work between the development by Moldova institutions and efficient know how transfer by MS experts</td>
<td>Yes - ENI SEIS II East project n°32, 33</td>
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<td>35</td>
<td>Information and awareness-raising campaigns for local public authorities on efficient water management in small rivers sub-basins and methodological support for establishing committees for river sub-basins.</td>
<td>Activity 3.1.2. IOWater: - In line with the results 3.1 and 3.2 and the DoA. Development of a common approach and methodology for establishing sustainable sub-basin’s Committees Coordinaiton with on-going projects Mobilisation of NGOs</td>
<td></td>
<td>IOWater</td>
<td>Yes will rely on good team work between the development by Moldova institutions and efficient know how transfer by MS experts</td>
<td>Yes on the methodological approach making clear the objective, secretariat role and formalisation needs of the proposals discussed in the</td>
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<td>36</td>
<td>Support the establishing of a sub-basin’s Committee for a pilot small river (eg. Lapusna, Vilia, Racovet)</td>
<td>Activity 3.1.2. IOWater: - In line with the result 3.2 and the DoA. Stakeholder analysis and mobilisation with a focus on the Lapusna sub-basin</td>
<td>Need to specify the stakeholder involvement mechanisms at the different basin scale. Coordination with on-going projects Mobilisation of NGOs</td>
<td>IOWater</td>
<td>Yes: will rely on good team work between the development by Moldova institutions and efficient know how transfer by MS experts</td>
<td>- Swiss-ADA project Danube connects” project - n°35</td>
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<td>37</td>
<td>Training for communication with public on integrated management of water resources.</td>
<td>Activity 3.1.2. IOWater: - In line with the result 1.3 and the DoA. Possible regional activity</td>
<td></td>
<td>IOWater</td>
<td>Yes to be precised in the country communication strategy</td>
<td>Yes - n°11, 29</td>
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<td>38</td>
<td>Facilitating the dialogue with Romanian colleagues, regular meetings to be organized for the Prut river basin (MD, UA, RO)</td>
<td>Activity 3.1.4. IOWater: In line with the results 1.2 and 3.4, and the DoA. Establishment of a specific working group with the ICPDR</td>
<td></td>
<td>IOWater</td>
<td>Yes to be precised in the country communication strategy</td>
<td>Yes - n°6, 9; 25, 31</td>
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<td>39</td>
<td>Study visits with a mix of stakeholders in pilot regional basins (partners in the</td>
<td>Activity 3.1.4. IOWater:</td>
<td></td>
<td>IOWater</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>To be precised</td>
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Is this deliverable within the project budget and time frame? Identify any compromises to be made in terms of scope | Synergies
With other national priorities, regional initiatives and other result areas
With any relevant IO or donor projects |
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| 40                | Activities to celebrate the Danube Day on 29th of June in Moldova | Activity 3.1.4.
IOWater: In line with the result 3.1 and the DoA. | | IOWater | Yes: to be precised in the country communication strategy | Yes, in cooperation with other projects - Swiss-ADA project |
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<td>Provide any clarifications or interpretations made, does the country proposal align with discussions on inception mission and the DoA (add reference to specific activity)?</td>
<td>List any sub projects or feed in items required to deliver priority</td>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>Full harmonization of legislation can’t be guaranteed at this point by EUWI+ project but the project will attempt to do as much as possible</td>
<td>If budget constraints than WFD to be prioritized over other Directives</td>
<td>AA is setting key framework, perhaps clarification of implementation scheme needed (links with Result 2, monitoring and basin work). Strong synergies with APENA project, EMBLAS II project (for Marine Strategy)</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Implementation of the relevant provisions of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement and governmental plans for the implementation of water directives</td>
<td>Focus on transposition of WFD but if necessary, could include transposition also under other 5 water directives such as Floods Directive. Close coordination with ongoing EU-funded APENA project is key.</td>
<td>Scoping has to be done first to identify gaps not yet covered/committed by other donors or projects (especially APENA project which is due to finish in September 2018)</td>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Implementation of the Law of Ukraine &quot;On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine regarding the implementation of integrated approaches in water management on basin principle» Nr 3603 and the bylaws to it, which projects have to be prepared before entering this Law</td>
<td>Ministry wants this activity to start as soon as possible, taking into account the short deadlines stated in the above mentioned documents</td>
<td>Strongly linked with Priority #1 (can be merged?). Concrete legislative acts need to be identified first and checked against APENA project plans. Only achievable if implementation can start after inception phase (from May 2017 onward)</td>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>National Policy Dialogue on Water Re-establishment of full-fledged and comprehensive National Policy Dialogue on Water, which beside the National Board will hold annually or more the respective Forum of all stakeholders.</td>
<td>A forum where to discuss all priority actions under all three results of EUWI+ project</td>
<td>already ongoing</td>
<td>OECD, UNECE</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Recently established Water Forum to perform functions of overseeing the National Policy Dialogue</td>
</tr>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Develop National Water Policy Paper and Strategy.</td>
<td>Develop a concept/long-term vision of the water sector reforms in Ukraine. This is supposed to be developed quite quickly. So, a careful, focused scoping is required. UA comments: &quot;Quick development of the National Water Policy Paper which must be based on existing achievements, the AA and other relevant</td>
<td>A subject to agreement with the Ministry of Regional Development, OECD may develop a sub-sectorial strategic framework for wastewater collection and treatment; then, it will form a chapter</td>
<td>OECD, UNECE to support</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>APENA EMBLAS</td>
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<td>5.1</td>
<td>Harmonization of legal and regulatory tasks of EUWI+ and APENA projects and assistance and support of the MENR in their adoption at the to be covered under Priority #1</td>
<td>international instruments, and provide vision for further policy developments, including analysis of economic aspects of water sector development. The Paper will serve as a document for National Dialogue and in future stages shall evolve into the National Water Policy Strategy.” of the national water strategy. The Ukrainian counterparts stressed the importance to develop and establish sustainable economic mechanism to ensure implementability of the water sector reforms in Ukraine. OECD considers this study to inform the corresponding chapter of the future water strategy.</td>
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<td>legislative level;</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>On job trainings of specialists of hydrochemistry, hydrobiology and hydromorphology must become one of the important activities of the EUWI+ project. Lack of such specialists will not allow to progress in implementing requirements of WFD in Ukraine beyond the secondary legislation approved at the legislative level.</td>
<td>Field training for hydrochemistry, hydrobiology, and hydromorphology specialists should be an important area of activity under the EUWI+ project. In absence of such specialists, it would be impossible to make any progress in implementation of the WRD in Ukraine beyond adoption of subordinate legislation. A roadmap should be developed for each Basin Authority for their gradual transformation in accordance with the objectives for development and implementation of the River Basin Management Plans.</td>
<td>to be covered under Activity 1.2.2 (Organization of trainings), but only partly</td>
<td>UNECE and Result 2</td>
<td>Only partly</td>
<td>Only partly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>Support the implementation by Ukraine its commitments under the Danube Convention</td>
<td>Support of participation costs of experts in expert groups of the ICPDR (together with the EU APENA project) but no salaries/consultancies</td>
<td>Only partly</td>
<td>UNECE</td>
<td>Only partly</td>
<td>Only partly</td>
<td>To be coordinated with APENA project and ICPDR secretariat</td>
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<td>6.2</td>
<td>Preparation of new implementation plan in accordance with the established targets to the UNECE-WHO/Europe Protocol on Water and Health, review of the system for monitoring diseases related to water, preparing next national report on the execution of the implementation Plan, supporting activities of the intergovernmental working group</td>
<td>Was requested at the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (November 2016). Build on national targets set in 2011 and previous work of UNECE on equitable access to water and sanitation.</td>
<td>Linked with Activity 1.2.2 (Organization of trainings). Can include the following sub-activities: Update of national targets from 2011; Drafting of the implementation plan for the targets; development of an action plan to ensure equitable access to water and sanitation; review of the system for monitoring diseases related to water; support to national reporting under the Protocol in 2018-2019.</td>
<td>UNECE</td>
<td>Yes (gradual implementation of each sub-task)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Plans by WHO to be checked, as well as ongoing or planned reporting under GLAAS and SDGs.</td>
</tr>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Development of transboundary cooperation</td>
<td>Wasn't explicitly listed among written priority list, but is among priorities of Moldova and was clearly voiced at inception mission. May potentially include</td>
<td></td>
<td>UNECE</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Link to Moldovan high priority item on the Dniester. Coordination will be necessary with the upcoming GEF project.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>support to implementation of the Dniester treaty with Moldova by organizing bilateral exchange and joint planning of activities.</td>
<td></td>
<td>IOWater / UBA</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>The Dnieper river basin (in full) is proposed to be selected as a pilot one. The RBMP for it should be developed taking into account the outputs of EPIRB projects and GEF Dniipro projects</td>
<td>- Dnieper basin is divided into 5 sub-basins Upper Dnieper, Middle Dnieper, Low Dnieper, Pripyat River and Desna River</td>
<td>Development of a first generation of RBMP for the Dnieper to be implemented during 6-years cycle. This objective would be in line with the WFD and the AA. It is understood that the measures will be included in the program of measures of the RBMP and in particular the section on knowledge where the measures to</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Possibility to have the economic analysis linked to the RBMP including cost recovery supported by OECD</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Development of a first generation of RBMP using data and information drawn from previous studies, including the GEF-UNDP Dniper programme</td>
<td>Development of a first generation of RBMP for the Dnieper to be implemented during 6-years cycle. This objective would be in line with the WFD and the AA. It is understood that the measures will be included in the program of measures of the RBMP and in particular the section on knowledge where the measures to</td>
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<td>- Considering Dnieper superficies, it requires an important mobilisation of Ukrainian institutions and adapted strategy for full scale development. It can be considered as a priority country overall objective, but cannot be considered as a sole project objective in order to have a sustainable impact and</td>
<td>The WFD compliance monitoring program for the whole basin based on water bodies would include substantial surveying costs which are not available. Yes for delineation of water bodies acc. system A, typology, HMWB designation focused on main river channel respectively on further jointly selected area of high significance,</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ecological Status Classification System surveys Gap-filling surveys</td>
<td>IOWater / UBA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Is this deliverable within the project budget? Identify any compromises to be made in terms of scope</td>
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</table>

2  To clearly define in which river basins work on updating  Support in participation of the Prut working group  Ecological Status Classification System surveys  IOWater/UBA  The priority can be met in part (as described)  Yes  Methodologies developed on the pilot will be shared through

- Insure the necessary deepening of the work in the second RBM Planning cycle. Human resources need to be developed in the agencies in charge of water management, and in particular in the Ministry of the Dnieper BVO. Specific trainings are needed on basin planning issues.

  - Insure the necessary deepening of the work in the second RBM Planning cycle. Human resources need to be developed in the agencies in charge of water management, and in particular in the Ministry of the Dnieper BVO. Specific trainings are needed on basin planning issues.

  - Deepen the risk analysis of the water bodies will be defined. This challenging objective can be met if dedicated team in the Ukrainian institutions in charge of this duty are rapidly identified to be trained by the project team and identify solutions adapted to Ukrainian specificities and the indispensable progressivity of the vast ambition of IWRM.

  - Methodologies developed on the pilot will be shared through.
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<td>and improving RBMP will be continued (Tisza, Southern Bug, – where has already started work on preparing RBMP). Work on the joint RBMPs with Moldova and Romania regarding the Prut river basin, commenced in the course of the EPIRB Project, should be continued.</td>
<td>Provide any clarifications or interpretations made, does the country proposal align with discussions on inception mission and the DoA (add reference to specific activity)?</td>
<td>List any sub projects or feed in items required to deliver priority</td>
<td>Gap-filling surveys</td>
<td>but will require strengthening of the beneficiary institutions</td>
<td></td>
<td>working groups</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>To estimate capacities of the project and limited period of its activities (4 years) for developing new RBMP for other river basins.</td>
<td>IOWater</td>
<td>No direct input of the project will be focused on other districts than the Dnieper RB which is already beyond the sole project capacity, but the priority for MS experts'</td>
<td>To date it is understood that the Ukrainian authorities wish is that the majority of project resources for local support would be dedicated to Dnieper RB.</td>
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<td>work on the formalisation and dissemination of selected national methodologies to all the Ukrainian districts beyond the Dnieper.</td>
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<td>team could be given to formalising methodologies and tools and training of trainers for dissemination to the different public actors responsible for RBMP development in the different Ukrainian districts.</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>To start as soon as possible tasks concerning establishment of a new approach in monitoring of surface and groundwater in accordance with the requirements of the WFD. This will facilitate the most accurate assessment of baseline condition for updating or preparing RBMPs.</td>
<td>The design of the monitoring programmes are an integral part of the RBMP development and are included. Monitoring guidelines prepared under the EPRIB project to be applied Laboratory analytical and QA/QS training to be provided Ecological Status Classification systems developed including identification of reference sites</td>
<td>The work will be linked closely with the RBMP development</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>Linkage to APENA in development of secondary legislations and regulations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>To emphasize that development and implementation of River Basin Management Plan, including determination of the laboratories that will receive equipment, should be based on new distribution of</td>
<td>It is important that any plans are prepared in compliance with the WFD and that the plans are adopted by the beneficiary country and subsequently implemented</td>
<td></td>
<td>UBA/IOW</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>- APENA - Link with Data management</td>
</tr>
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<td>responsibilities among monitoring agents, which will be determined in the draft resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine “On Order of Conduction of Water Monitoring”. Therefore, the project is expected to take an active part in the development of this resolution.</td>
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<td>5.2</td>
<td>The project is asked to be involved into the development of three bylaws (methodologies on ecological and chemical status assessment for surface and groundwater bodies and surface and groundwater bodies’</td>
<td>- Technical content and methodological support for development of bylaws - Guidelines and training can be provided on this topic</td>
<td>Establishment of a specific working group</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>With other national priorities, regional initiatives and other result areas</td>
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<td>- APENA - Link with activities Result 1 - National priority 2 under Result 1</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Prior identification of the laboratories and establishing a new monitoring network, water body delineation should be done, because the WFD compliant monitoring network should be established for the assessment of each delineated water body instead of river basin as a whole.</td>
<td>The design of compliant monitoring programmes are part of the RBMP development. A laboratory development strategy will be produced for the short and medium term. In line with the strategy, support to the laboratories and monitoring programmes will be provided in terms of equipment (limited) and training. Biological and hydro morphological training to be provided at national and basin level</td>
<td>Activities closely linked to RBMP development and surveys</td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>Working closely with regulatory authorities both for SW and GW</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>To ensure cooperation with the EMBLAS project for as for</td>
<td>Cooperation with EMBLAS project on coastal WFD planning but no pilot project planned for Ukraine</td>
<td></td>
<td>UBA</td>
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<td>-EMBLAS</td>
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<td>With other national priorities, regional initiatives and other result areas</td>
<td>With any relevant IO or donor projects</td>
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<td>monitoring of coastal waters, taking into account that surface waters (according to WFD) include rivers, lakes, transitional and coastal waters (Dnipro basin, selected as pilot one, has all of these categories).</td>
<td>Assessment will also be made of the existing monitoring programmes SW and GW</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>To decide on the available budget for strengthening laboratories (infrastructure, consumables, equipment) and to start discussions on its most effective use, taking into account the long procurement procedures.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>UBA</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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**Ukraine**

Full laboratory assessment to be undertaken in Q3 2017 and national laboratory strategy to be developed.
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<td>Aarhus Centre can serve as a connection and a communication tool with general public. Coordination with on-going projects</td>
<td>IOWater</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>-APENA -EMBLAS -Dnister GEF</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Separate communication plan must be developed to support the National Policy Dialogue, including developing and consultations on Water Policy Paper and implementation of the integrated water management.</td>
<td>The EUWI+ will be developing a EUWI+ country communication plan, which will capture all Project Result areas. In line with the result 3.1 (part of a Communication Strategy) and the DoA</td>
<td>IOWater</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>-APENA -EMBLAS -Dnister GEF</td>
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<td>Communication shall provide respective support to the results 1 and 2.</td>
<td>In line with the activities under Result 3 and the DoA</td>
<td>IOWater</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>-APENA -EMBLAS -Dnister GEF</td>
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European Union Water Initiative Plus for Eastern Partnership Countries
Final Inception Report

This EU-funded programme is implemented by the UNECE, OECD and an EU member state consortium of Austria, managed by the lead coordinator Umweltbundesamt, and of France, managed by the International Office for Water. This document was produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The views expressed herein can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the European Union or the Governments of the Eastern Partnership Countries.

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The document includes information as of November 2017.

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