



# National Policy Dialogues under the EU Water Initiative

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# National Policy Dialogues (NPD)

- National Policy Dialogues (NPD) on IWRM and WSS are the main operational instrument of the European Union Water Initiative (EUWI) in EECCA.
- WG for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia is chaired by the Romanian Ministry of Environment and Forests
- UNECE is key strategic partner on IWRM, transboundary waters => NPDs are part of the Water Convention programme of work
- OECD is key strategic partner on water supply and sanitation and the economic and financial dimensions of water resources management



# NPD – a policy process

- NPDs are a platform for the policy discussions and preparation and implementation of national policy documents (e.g. Governmental and Ministerial Orders) – “policy packages”
- NPD are led by a senior official, usually the Deputy - Minister for Environment/Water Resources
- High-level officials representing different sectors of economy (water, agriculture, industry, other) comprise NPD Steering Committee
- Stakeholders include governmental entities, NGOs, science, private sector entities
- Donors and international organisations take part in the SCs meetings
- The dialogue is supported by robust analytical work



# Major issues addressed by the NPDs IWRM

- **Strengthening water legislation** (EU WFD and other directives, Water Convention) (AM, AZ, GE, MD, UA, TJ, TM).
- **Issues of drinking water quality** (UNECE – WHO Protocol on Water and Health) (MD, UA, AM, GE). Synergies on WSS with OECD!
- **Transboundary water cooperation** (UNECE Water Convention) (AZ, GE, MD, UA, TJ)
- **Adaptation to climate change** (MD, UA).



# Major issues addressed by the NPDs IWRM

- The OECD has initiated work on the economic and financial dimension of WRM in selected EECCA countries
  - The use of economic instruments for water resources management (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan)
  - business models for water users associations or for river basin management agencies (Ukraine).



# NPDs on WSS in EECCA

- OECD has worked on WSS in EECCA since 2002 (Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan)
- Dialogues aim at
  - Injecting financial realism in water strategies and investment plans
  - Revising water pricing policies
  - Designing institutions which favour sound water policies
    - Overcoming fragmentation of water systems
    - Business models for rural sanitation
  - Adapting water services and infrastructures to climate change



# Selected achievements

- National water strategies based on IWRM under development in Tajikistan and Azerbaijan
- Analyses on target setting on water and health completed in two basins in Kyrgyzstan
- National legislation analyzed and accession to Water Convention recommended in Turkmenistan
- A reform of tariff policies in Armenia
- An Action and Investment plan for water supply and sanitation in Moldova
- A roadmap to set up regional water utilities in Ukraine



# Plans for the future

- Continuation of ongoing NPDs
- NPDs in Kazakhstan and Russia start in 2012
- Stronger coordination of Central Asian NPDs, also through EU-CA platform
- Stronger synergies with EU projects in the region and other initiatives
- Greater visibility for NPDs and sharing lessons learned
- Funding: European Commission (3.2 mln for 2012-early 2016), Finland, Norway, Switzerland, Germany, Denmark, OSCE/ENVSEC