

European Union Water Initiative and National Policy Dialogues

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11th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management
Geneva, 18-19 October 2016

Special session on the Water Convention's 20th anniversary
and its global opening

20 WATER CONVENTION



Progress and activities in 2016, (a)

LEGISLATION:

- * 2 new water sector by-laws drafted in Georgia (on water quality ecological standards and on water protection zones), in addition to 2 bylaws drafted in 2015
- * Water Code of Turkmenistan currently debated at Parliament
- * Irrigation sector strategy finalised in Tajikistan

TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION:

- * Active bilateral cooperation between Kazakh and Russian experts to develop a joint strategy (on transboundary Ural river) and a joint Protocol (on transboundary Kigac river, tributary to Volga)



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20 YEARS WATER CONVENTION



Progress and activities in 2016, (b)

WATER-FOOD-ENERGY NEXUS:

- * Economic assessment of multi-purpose water infrastructure at Shardara (Kazakhstan) to support economic development and water, food and energy security
- * Development of national definitions and indicators of water, food and energy security in Kyrgyzstan

WATER AND HEALTH:

- * National water & health targets updated in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan
- * National programme to implement water & health targets in Moldova
- * New water & health targets drafted in Georgia
- * Water & health targets being drafted in Kazakhstan



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Progress and activities in 2016, (c)

ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS:

- * Development of recommendations on a sustainable business model for water supply and sanitation in small towns of Kazakhstan
- * Activities to strengthen the use of economic instruments for water law at:
 - national level (in Armenia and Kyrgyzstan)
 - subnational level (Republic of Buryatiya, Lake Baikal Basin, the Russian Federation)
 - transboundary level (in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia)



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Lessons learned and recommendations to others

- * Political leadership (provided by the EU and by Romania as Chair of the EUWI EECCA Working Group)
- * Ownership at national level, commitment of national actors
- * Responding to countries' needs and being flexible (in case of changes in governments)
- * Long-term perspective (also helped by 3 or 4 year grants of donors)
- * Coordination with development partners to ensure the sustainability of results
- * Coordination with different EU mechanisms (EU-Central Asia Strategy, EU Water Diplomacy Initiative, Association Agreements with Eastern Neighbourhood countries, etc.)



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Planned future activities in this area in 2016-2018

* Differentiation of focus:

- Central Asia: water diplomacy, water-food-energy security and nexus, green economy
- Eastern Europe/Caucasus: harmonization with EU water legislation, basin planning, capacity building
- more exchange between Central Asia and Eastern Europe/Caucasus



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