



EU Water Initiative National Policy Dialogues: recent developments

Ms. Ana Drapa
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
Romania

Background

- National Policy Dialogues (NPD) on IWRM and WSS are the main operational instrument of the European Union Water Initiative (EUWI) in EECCA region.
- Working Group for EECCA is chaired by Romania
- Strategic partners: UNECE (for IWRM), OECD (for WSS and financial aspects of water management)
- Active in 10 countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine
- A platform for policy discussions (preparation and implementation of national policy documents – “policy packages”)
- Included in Convention’s Work Programme 2013-2015

Main developments since 7th Working Group, (1)

- Number of policy packages developed:
 - drafting new national Water Laws (Georgia, Turkmenistan)
 - drafting national Water Sector Reform Strategies (Azerbaijan, Tajikistan)
 - strengthening the use of economic instruments for water management at national level (Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Russia) and at transboundary level (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia)
 - setting or implementing national targets for water and health (Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan)
- 10 high-level Steering Committee meetings in 7 countries
- 4 stakeholder meetings (Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan)
- NPD process started in Kazakhstan

Main developments since 7th Working Group, (2)

- Publications:
 - Publication “EUWI National Policy Dialogues: Achievements and lessons learned” (Jan 2013)
 - Draft report on implementation of IWRM principles in context of NPDs (Sep 2013) - *meeting document Inf.7*
 - NPD Policy briefs (Georgia (to be finalized), Kyrgyzstan)
 - NPD Newsletters (Nov 2012, Jul 2013)
 - Targets under the Protocol on Water and Health adopted in Kyrgyzstan
- Draft communication strategy (Sep 2013)
- Updated websites www.unece.org/env/water/NPD and www.oecd.org/water

Challenges and emerging issues

- water - energy - food security nexus
 - achieving policy coherence and cooperation
 - reforming tariffs and harmful subsidies
- water and green growth
 - robust river basin management plans
 - management of transboundary rivers
 - issues of affordability and distribution
- donor coordination