

Agenda

Meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee of the National Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management in Ukraine and a Thematic Workshop on Nature-Based Solutions

Date: 15 – 16 June 2023	Venue: 15 June - hybrid format, Kyiv, Bogdana Khmelnyskogo Str. 53, hotel Opera 16 June – online	Time: 15 June – 10:00-18:00 EET 16 June - 10:00-13:00 EET
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DAY 1 – 15 JUNE 2023

MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE

The National Policy Dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management (NPD) facilitate policy discussions where stakeholders meet to advance water sector reform. NPDs are driven by the demand of the host country and are chaired by heads of respective government agencies. A variety of stakeholders participate in the meetings, such as national authorities and institutions, non-governmental organisations, the business community, parliamentary bodies, academia, international organisations. Under the EU-funded EU4Environment Water Resources and Environmental Data Programme*, NPDs are supported in the five Eastern Partner countries Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, republic of Moldova and Ukraine. More information on the NPD in Ukraine is available at https://unece.org/environment-policy/water/areas-work-convention_protocol/country-dialogues/ukraine.

The objectives of the meeting of the Steering Committee of the National Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management in Ukraine are as follows:

- to provide an update on the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) in Ukraine under the European Union – Ukraine Association Agreement,
- to provide and update on recent developments in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM),
- to discuss challenges in implementation of the IWRM WFD in Ukraine, and also link it with the implementation of other EU directives (e.g. UWWTD),
- to provide a platform for coordination of donor activities in the water sector in Ukraine and to enhance the cooperation with international partner organisations,
- to update on the progress of work on the Environmental Data component of the EU Programme, i.e. on water accounts, land use mapping, waste and air pollution data, access to data as well as international reporting,
- to discuss progress and next steps in implementing the EU4Environment – Water and Data Programme in Ukraine and to receive feedback from the national stakeholders.

Implementing partners

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Local Time	Item	Speaker
10:00-10:30	Registration	
10:30-11:00	<p>Opening session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Welcoming statements – Tour de table – Adoption of agenda 	<p>Moderator: Yevhen Fedorenko, Deputy Minister of Environment Protection and Nature Resources of Ukraine (MEPRU)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Oleksandr Krasnolutskyi, First Deputy Minister of Environment Protection and Nature Resources of Ukraine – Chloé Allio, Head of the Department for Economic Cooperation, Energy, Infrastructure and Environment, EU Delegation to Ukraine – Alexander Zinke, EU4Environment Water and Data Programme
11:00-12:15	<p>Thematic session 1: Progress on water resources management</p> <p>The session is devoted to update about ongoing and future water governance in Ukraine.</p> <p>High-level dialogue on water resources management</p> <p>The dialogue will be built around the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – What is the progress made so far in IWRM and EU WFD implementation, what needs to be done next? – What are the current challenges for implementation, such as in linking with the EU’s Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive? – What are the consequences of the destruction of water management infrastructure due to the Russian aggression in Ukraine and how to ensure that recovery priorities and plans consider water-related issues? <p>Brief report of the EU4Env Water & Data Programme about the planning and progress on River Basin Management Planning (the Dnipro basin), water</p>	<p>Moderator: Olexii Iaroshevich, Blue Rivers Environmental Consulting, Ukraine,</p> <p>National authorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ministry of Environment Protection and Nature Resources of Ukraine – Nataliia Latysh, Acting Head of State Agency of Water Resources of Ukraine (5 min), – Committee of the Supreme Council of Ukraine on Environmental Policy and Nature Use, tbc (5 min), – Olexandr Butenko, Deputy Minister for Communities, Territories and Infrastructure Development of Ukraine - tbc (5 min), – Mustafa-Masi Nayem, Head of the Agency for Reconstruction and Infrastructure Projects of Ukraine, tbc (5 min) <p>UBA, OiEau, UNECE, OECD (in total 15 min)</p>



	<p>monitoring including COVID monitoring, economic instruments, mobilising finance, water and health, and legislative developments.</p> <p>Q&A and discussion</p>	
12:15-13:15	Lunch	
13:15-14:15	<p>Thematic Session 2: Domestic sources and instruments for implementation and financing of the water management</p> <p>During the session, the domestic financing of water protection, the sanitation as well as of the future programmes of measures of the nine river basin management plans will be discussed. The session will be built around the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – What are opportunities to improve and sustain the national and local financing of the water management? – What policy, economic and financial instruments should be developed to realise IWRMPs and to rebuild water sector in Ukraine? – How to coordinate the measures in the RBMPs with the wastewater sectoral development as well as to the local strategies for development? <p>Q&A and discussion</p>	<p><u>Moderator</u>: Volodymyr Bilokon, Reform Support Team of MEPR</p> <p>Keynote speech (5-10 min each):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Igor Gopchak, Deputy Head of the State Agency for Water of Ukraine, – Matthew Griffiths, OECD <p>5 min each:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ministry of Finances of Ukraine, – Mykhailo Yatsiuk, Director of the Institute for Water and Irrigation of the NAASU, – Dmytro Novytskii, President of the Association of Water Utilities of Ukraine – Association of Ukrainian Cities OR Mayors of Cities – tbc, – Mr Yevhen Sytnik, Ukrainian Association of Rayon and Oblast Councils (UAROR)
14:15-15:45	<p>Thematic session 3: International technical and financial support to implementation and financing of the programme of measures of the RBMP</p> <p>The session will help to review current international technical and financial support to Ukraine, particularly on water management and sanitation, and will focus on a dialogue with the international organizations in Ukraine on the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – What are the donor strategies and programmes / projects, which aim to support the implementation and rehabilitation of the water management in Ukraine? – How to ensure integration of the PoM in future strategies for technical and financial support? – What are the challenges in supporting the water management sector in Ukraine? 	<p><u>Moderator</u>: Olexii Iaroshevich, Blue Rivers Environmental Consulting, Ukraine</p> <p>Keynote speech (10 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministries of Ukraine or MFA, – Olga Zhovtonog, Head of NGO “Primavera” <p>Roundtable discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – EU Delegation to Ukraine, – Development banks (EIB, KfW), – UNDP, UNEP, FAO – Bilateral donors: GIZ, SIDA, USAID,

	Roundtable discussion	
15:45-16:15	Coffee Break	
16:15-17:15	<p>Thematic session 4: Dialogue on environmental statistics and open data</p> <p>Session to include progress on Environmental Data and open data issues, including water accounts, environmental data, air quality, waste, land cover mapping and international co-operation, including with European Environment Agency (EEA) and the Network of European Environmental Protection Agencies (EPA Network)</p> <p>Questions for discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – What is the progress made so far in each topic? – What still needs to be done on top of planned work? – What are the challenges for implementation? <p>Q&A and discussion</p>	<p><u>Moderator:</u> MEPR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Johannes Mayer, UBA, – OiEau, UNECE (12 min.), – Miroslav Havranek, Director of Czech Environment Agency, Chair of the Ukraine Interest Group of EPA Network <p>National authorities: <i>competent experts that we involved during past months</i> (20 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Victoriia Kireeva, Deputy Minister of MEPR, – State Statistic Service of Ukraine, – Roman Filonenko, MEPR
17:15-17:45	<p>Closing remarks and meeting summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – closing statement, key messages, decisions, next steps, – an introductory overview of Day 2. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – MEPR, SAWR, – Tamara Kutonova

DAY 2 – 16 JUNE 2023**THEMATIC WORKSHOP ON POTENTIAL OF NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT IN UKRAINE**

There is an increasing interest in nature-based solutions (NbS) across the world, as an approach to contribute to multiple sustainability objectives, including water resource management, climate change adaptation and mitigation, food security and land use management. While recognising that there is a variety of definitions, the term NbS can be used here as “solutions that are inspired and supported by nature, which are cost-effective, simultaneously provide environmental, social and economic benefits and help build resilience. Such solutions bring more diverse, nature and natural features and processes into cities, landscapes and seascapes, through locally adapted, resource-efficient and systemic interventions. (European Commission, 2021)”. In so doing, NbS will contribute to protecting, sustainably managing or restoring nature, with the goal of maintaining or enhancing ecosystem services to address a variety of social, environmental and economic challenges (OECD, 2020).

NbS align with the overall objectives of the EU4Environment – Water Resources and Environmental Data Programme, the different mandates and expertise of the implementing partners. NbS have a great potential to have a positive impact on water quality and quantity in Ukraine, favouring natural retention and clean up and creating or improving habitats, supporting biodiversity.

The workshop objectives are as follows:

- To provide explanation (including criteria and standards), overview and benefits of different types of NbS compared to other water management solutions in river basins
- To exchange experience and views among Ukrainian stakeholders and development partners on:
 - existing and potential NbS for river basin management in Ukraine
 - how existing NbS in the country have been developed and implemented.
- To enhance understanding of definition, benefits and challenges of NbS for Ukraine climate and biodiversity related targets and sustainable river basin management in terms of:
 - further scaling up of the NbS in Ukraine,
 - challenges to scaling up.
- To identify key priorities (e.g. types of NbS, regions, landscape) that can potentially be included in the “roadmap” to be developed under the EU4Environment Project.

Time	Item	Speaker
	Online	
10:00-10:15	Opening remarks	<p><u>Moderator</u>: Ministry of Environment Protection and Nature Resources of Ukraine – tbc</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Vitaliy Zhuk, Head of Section for restoration of Freshwater and Marine Ecosystems, MEPR, – Karin Zaunberger, Policy Officer, EC DG Environment, – Tamara Kutonova, Manager of the National Policy Dialogue Programme, UNECE
10:15-10:30	Scene-setting presentation	James Dalton, Head of Water and Land Management, IUCN
10:30-11:30	<p>Experience from Ukraine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Dam removal to restore flow continuity (example of the Cheremosh river) – A platform for NBS – NBS for improvement of the hydromorphological status of the waterbodies – Conservation of step ecosystem in Tarutino and rewilding island in the Danube delta island (Odesa oblast) – Restoration of peatlands and preservation of ecosystems in the north of Ukraine <p>Q&A</p>	<p><u>Moderator</u> Oksana Konovalenko, WWF Ukraine</p> <p>8 min each:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Oksana Konovalenko, WWF Ukraine, – Bogdan Vyhor, WWF Ukraine, – Kateryna Mudra, Blue River Consult, Ukraine, – Oleg Dyakov, Head of Rewilding Ukraine, – Inna Goch, UNDP
11:30-11:50	Coffee Break	
11:50-12:40	<p>Experience from outside Ukraine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Examples from Portugal – Creation of buffer zones between water and agriculture – Wetland-based wastewater treatment in town of Old Orhei, Republic of Moldova – Managed aquifer recharge (new EU guidance) <p>Q&A</p>	<p><u>Moderator</u>: OECD</p> <p>10 min each:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Filipa Ferreira, Portuguese High School of Engineering, – Maxim Fouillet, OiEau, – Vitali Carp, Head of Apa Canal in Orhei SA, – Johannes Grath, UBA
12:40-13:10	<p>Moderated discussion</p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What are potential nature-based solutions (NbS) for river basin management in Ukraine? - What are lessons learned from NbS cases in Ukraine? - What are challenges to promoting and scaling up NbS in Ukraine? - What can the EU4Environment programme, together with development cooperation partners, do to support more NbS in Ukraine? 	<p>Moderator: UNECE</p> <p>All participants</p>

13:10-13:20	Closing remarks and next steps - Possibly, to highlight/agree on key priorities (e.g. types of NbS, regions, landscape) that can be included in the “roadmap” to be developed under the EU4Environment programme.	MEPR and SAWR Representative of EU4Environment Water and Data Programme
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*About EU4Environment – Water Resources and Environmental Data

This programme aims at improving people’s wellbeing in EU’s Eastern Partner Countries and enabling their green transformation in line with the European Green Deal and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The programme’s activities are clustered around two specific objectives: 1) support a more sustainable use of water resources and 2) improve the use of sound environmental data and their availability for policy-makers and citizens. It ensures continuity of the Shared Environmental Information System Phase II and the EU Water Initiative Plus for Eastern Partnership programmes.

The programme is implemented by five Partner organisations: Environment Agency Austria (UBA), Austrian Development Agency (ADA), International Office for Water (OiEau) (France), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). The action is principally funded by the European Union, and co-funded by the Austrian Development Cooperation and the French Artois-Picardie Water Agency based on a budget of EUR 12,75 million (EUR 12 million EU contribution). The implementation period is 2021-2024.

