



European Union Water Initiative National Policy Dialogue

Activities of the United Nations Economic Commission for
Europe and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and
Development: UNECE activities

Nur-Sultan (Geneva, Paris and online), 20 November 2020



Overview – EUWI and NPDs

- **2006** - EU Water Initiative (EUWI) National Policy Dialogues on IWRM (NPDs) started in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia
- **NPDs currently ongoing in 10 countries**
- **Funded and supported by:** European Union and partly by other donors
- **EUWI NPDs in Central Asia project funded by EU** started in 2019 (Sept. 2019-2022); 600 k EUR (UNECE in cooperation with OECD within the WECOOP programme)
- **EUWI+ programme** for the 6 EU Eastern Partnership countries; 24,5 mln EUR (23.5 mln EUR **funding from DG NEAR/European Union**); Sept. 2016 – Aug. 2020 (recently extended into 2021); **Implementing Partners:** UNECE, OECD, EU MS Consortium (Austria and France)

EUWI NPDs in Central Asia (2019-2022)

- Overall objective to enhance IWRM and inter-sectoral coordination for water security at the national level in Central Asian countries to support sustainable development
- Support to developing «policy packages» and investment ideas in the water sector
- Facilitate NPDs in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, relaunch of NPD in Turkmenistan and its launch in Uzbekistan
- Provide forum at NPDs to discuss the prevention of accidental water pollution, jointly with the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention
- Inception phase completed, country priorities identified, first studies launched
- Support to reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2 provided through regional webinar (28 May 2020) and individual support to countries
- NPD meetings in person delayed due to COVID-19 related restrictions

Progress and recent activities

- **Launch of first policy packages:**

- **Kazakhstan:** Support to reporting under the Water Convention and SDG 6.5.2 indicator, report submitted to UNECE and UNESCO

- **Kyrgyzstan:** Expert meeting under NPD on SDG 6.5.2 indicator, with support of WECOOP project (Bishkek, 12-13 Nov)

- **Kyrgyzstan:** water security indicator in transboundary context; assisting the country in developing new methodology for monetary evaluation and compensation or in-kind remediation of damage to water resources and bodies, jointly with OECD.

- **Tajikistan:** Elaboration of a methodology for the water balance calculation in support of the new Water Code

- **Regional:**

- Inputs on NPDs to the 9th Meeting of the EU-CA Working Group on Environment and Climate Change (Brussels, 12-13 February 2020)

- Project and its activities presented and discussed at the WG on IWRM meetings under the Water Convention, Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health (Belgrade, Nov. 2019)

Activities and plans in Kazakhstan

- **Launch of first policy packages:**

- Support to reporting under the Water Convention and SDG 6.5.2 indicator (including through video meeting on 15 July 2020), report submitted to UNECE and UNESCO

- **NPD and its meetings:**

- NPD Coordination Council membership updated by Ministerial Order in March 2020. NPC CC meeting on 20 November 2020

- **Priorities identified during the inception phase:**

- Support to meetings and activities of the bilateral WG with Uzbekistan on water quality in the Syr Darya basin
 - Possible support to the preparation (implementation) of the State Programme on water resources management 2020-2030

- **Work ahead:**

- Launch of new policy packages in 2021, e.g. with respect to activities of the bilateral WG with Uzbekistan on water quality, as part of the NPD workplan for 2021

Lessons learned and look ahead

- COVID-19 pandemic impacted negatively implementation but also highlighted the importance of access to safe water and sanitation, better strategic planning in water sectors, enhancement of monitoring capabilities and the relevance of such tools as the EU WFD and MEAs (Water Convention and the Protocol on Water and Health)
- Importance to align implementation to objectives of strategic partnership documents between EU and Central Asian countries and maintain close contact with EU Delegations in the region
- Continue with work programmes and hold NPD meetings in hybrid/virtual format

Partners



WECOOP

EU – Central Asia Cooperation on
Water – Environment – Climate Change



UNECE



<https://www.unece.org/env/water/npd/countrydialogues.html>

<https://wecoop.eu/>

<https://www.facebook.com/wecoopproject>