

Ongoing National Policy Dialogues

National Policy Dialogues have been launched in Armenia (2006), Georgia (2007), Kyrgyzstan (2008), Moldova (2006) and Ukraine (2008). They are all ongoing.

Further National Policy Dialogues may be launched in 2009. Turkmenistan and Tajikistan have made an expression of interest each for a National Policy Dialogue.

Armenia

Outputs of the National Policy Dialogue in Armenia include a strategy on the implementation of the principles of the EU Water Framework Directive (EU-WFD) in Marmarik River basin, a minimum rural water supply standard providing input to the draft Law on Drinking Water and a financing strategy for rural WSS.

The European Commission and various EU Member States (Austria, Estonia, Germany, Czech Republic, Romania and UK) provide support to the National Policy Dialogues in different ways. Finland, Israel, Norway and Switzerland have also expressed interest in the National Policy Dialogues.

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) act as key strategic partners of the EECCA countries in their National Policy Dialogue process

What's in it for the EECCA countries?

The EECCA Component is not a funding mechanism. So what's in it for the EECCA countries? The answer is:

- Access to practitioners in the EU, including the new EU Member States.
- Access to best practices from the EECCA region and EU.
- Access to EU-Water Framework Directive tools such as for water quality, monitoring, water pricing policies, water resources management including transboundary issues and water cross border solidarity aspects on floods, droughts, climate change, etc.

Financing strategies

The National Policy Dialogues in Georgia, Moldova and Kyrgyzstan have, among others, produced financing strategies for urban and rural WSS to be integrated into the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework processes.



What's in it for the EU Member States?

The EU Member States – and also non-EU Member States and international organisations – may gain from the EECCA Component in different ways. Most important is that it facilitates:

- Access to key stakeholders in the EECCA region.
- Increased understanding of the needs and priorities of the EECCA countries.
- Improved coordination of International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and donors in the EECCA region, within the water sector

Moldova

In Moldova the EUWI EECCA has contributed to reducing pollution from municipal waste water by helping in introducing new regulations. The Order of the Government of the Republic of Moldova "On Wastewater Discharges from Municipal Sources", was adopted on 10 October 2008 and constitutes an output of the National Policy Dialogue in Moldova.

Further information

Further information can be obtained from:

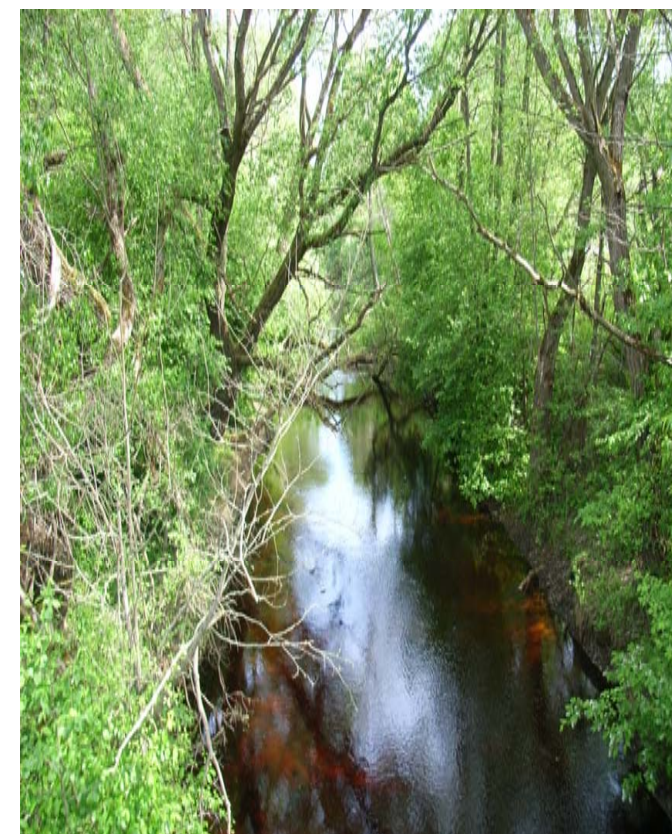
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See also the EUWI website:

www.euwi.net



EECCA Component - A mechanism to improve water management in the Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia



EU Water Initiative

The EU Water Initiative (EUWI) is a partnership aiming at contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for drinking water and sanitation, within the context of an integrated approach to water resources management.

The EUWI was launched by all EU Member States and the European Commission at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2002. The EUWI addresses some of the most urgent challenges as of today to environment, health and economic growth in the world

The water-related MDGs and WSSD targets

- o Halve by the year 2015 the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water.
- o Halve by the year 2015 the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation.
- o Develop integrated water resources management and efficiency plans.

The EUWI consists of four regional components - Africa, Eastern European, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA), Mediterranean and Latin America - with slightly different focus areas.

EUWI -EECCA

The EUWI Component for Eastern European, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) targets the 12 EECCA countries of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. *Partners* are government authorities and NGOs in the EECCA countries, government authorities in the EU Member States and selected non-EU Member States, such as Israel, Norway and Switzerland, the European Commission, and international organisations active in the region within the water sector, such as European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), European Bank for Investment(EIB), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

It has two focus areas, namely water supply and sanitation (WSS), including financing of water infrastructure, and integrated water resources management (IWRM), including transboundary river basin management and regional seas issues. Financing constitute a most important link between these two focus areas.

Annual work programmes

The programme document of the EECCA Component was endorsed at the 5th Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” held in Kiev, Ukraine, in 2003 and also at the 6th Ministerial Conference held in Belgrade, Serbia, in 2007.

The main work programme document was approved in March 2005 and lays down the 8 objectives of the EECCA Component.

The 8 objectives of the EECCA Component

- o Improve institutional and regulatory framework.
- o Ensure financial viability of utilities.
- o Investment in water supply, sanitation and rehabilitation.
- o Ensure access of the poor to water services as a basic human right.
- o Safeguard public health.
- o Protect the environment.
- o Establish and implement national policies for IWRM.
- o Develop the inter-state cooperative structures for river/lake basin management.

Annual work programmes provide detailed guidance on activities to be carried out each year.

EUWI- EECCA Working Group

The EECCA Working Group is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the EECCA Component.

The EECCA Working Group meets one to two times a year. It consists of representatives of all the partners. It promotes cooperation among the partners, monitors progress made and approves the annual work programmes.

Much attention is paid to the exchange of lessons learned with regard to water sector reforms in the EECCA countries, aimed at improving coverage and quality of water sector services.

Until the end of 2009, Romania acts as Chair of the EECCA Working Group

National Policy Dialogues

National Policy Dialogues are the main operational instrument of the EECCA Component. It is through that by the successful implementation of National Policy Dialogue the vision of the EUWI will come through.

The objective of the National Policy Dialogues is to initiate country-specific activities regarding WSS and IWRM aimed at improving coverage and quality of water sector services. They involve high level representatives of all key partners in the country in question, including representatives of relevant international organisations and civil society (NGOs).

The output of a National Policy Dialogue is a policy package addressing one or more issues. This policy package is to be implemented by the government authorities.

What is a policy package?
It is a coherent mix of policy tools, developed together so as to exploit synergies in order to achieve environmental policy objectives in a cost-effective manner and avoiding policy conflicts. A policy tool is a new law, regulation, water quality standard, tariff system, etc.

Joint activities to be carried out within a National Policy Dialogue include, among others, assistance in developing and implementing new so-called “policy tools”, experience sharing and capacity development.

A National Policy Dialogue is demand-driven. It is launched following a request from an EECCA country.

A strategic partner will take the lead in initiating the dialogue, in monitoring progress made in the course of the dialogue and in providing required assistance. This strategic partner may be an EU Member State, a non-EU Member State or an international organisation. As of today, the OECD acts as strategic partner of specially designed joint activities facilitating the National Policy Dialogues regarding WSS, whereas the UNECE acts as strategic partner of specially designed joint activities regarding IWRM. However, it is envisaged that others may act as strategic partners for certain National Policy Dialogues in the future – along with the OECD and the UNECE