



EUWI in EECCA region

Brussels, 13 February 2014

OECD and UNECE





Background EUWI EECCA

- Key objective
 - to support water sector reforms through implementation of policy packages at national level (e.g. new governmental regulations, revision of policy instruments, development of financially realistic management or investment plans)
- A demand-driven process
 - Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM), by UNECE
 - The economic and financial dimension of water policies (WSS, IWRM), by the OECD
- A regional component (EUWI EECCA Working Group)
 - Chaired by Romania



Background

EUWI EECCA NPDs as policy platforms

- **Policy**
 - NPDs are led by a senior official (Minister, Deputy Minister) who chairs a Steering Committee
- **Nexus**
 - coordination between different sectors (water, agriculture, energy, housing...)
- **Multi-stakeholder**
 - Gather High-level officials from governmental agencies; NGOs, academia, private sector; International donors (coordination of donors' activities)
- **NPDs as a process**
 - Process can last several years (with milestones) and is funded by various donors
 - Substantiated by robust analytical work
 - Fueled by international good practice (incl. from EU Member States)



Update on implementation

Policy packages developed in 2013

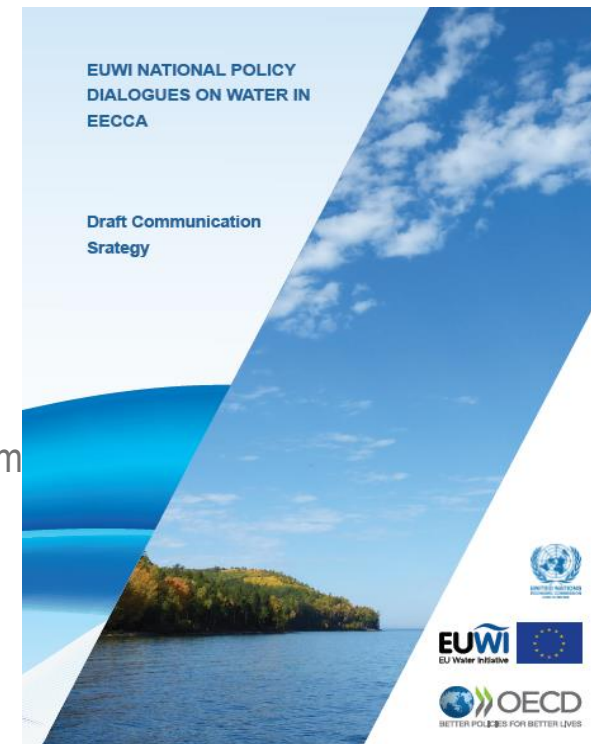
- New national Water Law/Code drafted in line with IWRM & EU WFD (Georgia, Turkmenistan)
- National Water Sector Reform Strategy drafted (Azerbaijan, Tajikistan)
- Water management institutional restructuring carried out to support IWRM (Tajikistan)
- Strengthening the use of economic instruments for water management at national level (Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Russia) and at transboundary level (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia)
- Developing national targets under the Protocol on Water and Health (adopted-Kyrgyzstan, set-Tajikistan, under development - Armenia)



Update on implementation

Process and communication (in 2013)

- Regular meetings in the region
 - 8 high-level Steering Committee meetings in countries
 - 2 stakeholder meetings (Georgia, Tajikistan)
 - regular working groups (Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan)
 - One regional meeting (Helsinki, October 2013)
- Extension of geographical coverage
 - NPD process started in Kazakhstan in June 2013
 - Potential NPD launch in Uzbekistan in 2014
- Outreach:
 - A communication strategy
 - 10 press releases
 - 2 issues of Newsletter
 - EUWI NPDs presentations in regional meetings and at the Stockholm
 - NPD websites up to date
 - A brochure (draft) on outcomes
 - An IWRM benchmarking study (draft)





Update on implementation

Cross-cutting outcomes

- Transparency of decision-making
- Coordination across government
- Coordination of international organisations and donors
- Resilience to political change
- Implementation of the WFD principles



Challenges and emerging issues.

Challenges

- Political instability in several countries
- Tensions between countries on transboundary rivers
- Slow institutional reforms (Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan)
- Time due to the development of new approaches/methods
- Difficulties to identify front runners (on economic instruments, basin management, ...)
- Lack of cooperation across governments
- Shifting and diverse priorities



Challenges and emerging issues.

Emerging issues

- Managing water for green growth
 - Robust RBM plans, linked to a development strategy
 - Affordability and distributional issues
 - Management of transboundary rivers
 - Sustainable water supply and sanitation services (including business models)
- The water-energy-food security nexus
 - Sending the right signals to water users (reform of water tariffs; reform of water harmful subsidies)
 - Promotion of IWRM and EU WFD
 - Designing and financing infrastructures for water, food and energy security
 - Adapting water management to climate change
 - On-going nexus assessment for transboundary basins by UNECE
- Transboundary water diplomacy
 - The UNECE Water Convention – now opening to all UN Member States
 - The economic benefit of transboundary cooperation



Workplan for 2014

- Managing water for green growth
 - Water quality in the Caucasus (in cooperation with EU-funded EPIRB project)
 - The economic dimension of RBMP (Tajikistan)
 - Water supply and sanitation (Armenia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan)
 - Work on water and health (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan)
- The water-energy-food security nexus
 - UNECE pilot nexus assessment for transboundary rivers in 2014-2015 (Alazani, Syr Darya)
 - Support to the development of basin management plans (Kyrgyzstan)
 - The reform of economic instruments for water management (Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Russia)
 - Water and agriculture (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan)
- Transboundary water diplomacy
 - OECD calculation of economic benefits of transboundary water management
 - Supporting transboundary negotiations and projects (Kura, Chu-Talas, Dniester)