



# European Union Water Initiative National Policy Dialogues on IWRM in Central Asia as intersectoral multistakeholder platforms to drive water reforms: Lessons learned and future prospects

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International Conference

Promoting regional water sector dialogue and cooperation in Central Asia through knowledge networking, partnerships and education

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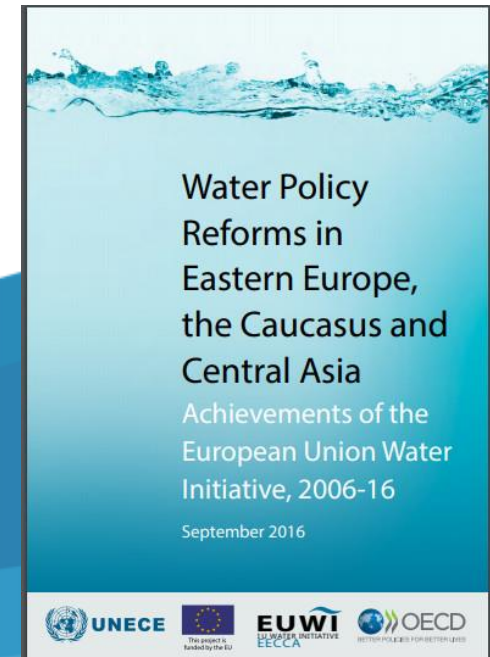


# Overview – EUWI and NPDs

- **2006** - EU Water Initiative (EUWI) National Policy Dialogues on IWRM (NPDs) started in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, facilitated jointly by UNECE and OECD
- **NPDs currently ongoing in 10 countries, including 4 in Central Asia**
- High-level **intersectoral Steering Committee** meetings provide platforms for discussions on key aspects of water policy reforms
- **Diverse stakeholders:** all relevant government entities, NGOs, academia, donor agencies, IFIs, local and basin authorities, etc.
- **Funded and supported by:** European Union, Finland, Switzerland, Romania, Norway and by partners (WB, SDC, OSCE, CAREC, IFAS bodies, UNDP, UNESCO,..)
- EUWI NPDs are guided at the regional level by the **EU-CA Working Group on Environment and Climate Change**

# Examples of previous achievements

- **Kazakhstan:** support to transboundary cooperation with Russia
- **Kyrgyzstan:** State Programme on developing WSS sector adopted, support to Chu-Talas Commission, work on the Protocol on Water and Health
- **Tajikistan:** Adoption of the Water Sector Reform programme 2016-2025 (supported by various partners) endorsement of targets in the context of the Protocol on Water and Health
- **Turkmenistan:** adoption of the new Water Code, accession to the Water Convention



# EUWI NPDs in Central Asia (2019-2022)

- **Funded by EU** started in 2019 with a budget of 600 k EUR (UNECE in cooperation with OECD within the WECOOP programme)
- 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
- Country priorities identified during inception phase
- NPD meetings in person delayed due to COVID-19 related restrictions

# Current and planned activities

- Support to reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2 on transboundary water cooperation provided through regional workshop and individual support to countries. As a result, 4 countries submitted reports to UNECE and UNESCO (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan)
  - **Kazakhstan:** NPD Steering Committee held in November 2020. Start of an activity on water quality and accidental water pollution in the Syrdarya basin expected in 2021
  - **Kyrgyzstan:** Complementing the national framework for water security indicators by indicators reflecting the transboundary dimension of water security; assisting the country in developing new methodology for compensation of damage to water resources and bodies
  - **Tajikistan:** Elaboration of a methodology for the water balance calculation in support of the new Water Code completed
  - Launch of NPD in Uzbekistan and organization of NPD meetings planned in all countries in 2021

# Lessons learned and prospects

- 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)
- Engagement with local partners at all levels key to sustainability of NPDs
- Importance to align implementation to objectives of strategic partnership documents between EU and Central Asian countries
- Continuous interest from countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia
- Need to maintain strong ownership by countries of NPDs and monitor progress
- NPDs will be part of the next programme of work under the Water Convention for 2022-2024, to be adopted at the Meeting of the Parties in Tallinn in 2021

# Contacts



<https://unece.org/euwi-npds>

<https://www.oecd.org/env/>

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

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