



NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUES ON INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN EASTERN EUROPE, CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ÁSIA

Report on project implementation for the period 1 January - 31 December 2009



Geneva, 8 February 2010





The project "National Policy Dialogue Process on Integrated Water Resource Management in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia" is implemented by the UNECE under the OECD-UNECE Contribution Agreement of 31 July 2009. The project is supported by the European Union.

For questions and requests concerning the project and the report, please contact

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Executive summary

National Policy Dialogues (NPD) on *integrated water resources management* and *water supply and sanitation* is the main operational instrument of the European Union Water Initiative (EUWI). This initiative, including its component for the countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA), was launched at the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002. UNECE was requested to act as strategic partner to support the policy dialogue process on integrated water resources management, whereas OECD was requested to do so for water supply and sanitation issues.

Since 2006, UNECE has been carrying out National Policy Dialogues in four countries: Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. In 2010, NPDs will start in Azerbaijan, Georgia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Since 2009, the NPD IWRM activities were implemented by UNECE under the OECD-UNECE Contribution Agreement of 31 July 2009 on the National Policy Dialogue Process on IWRM in EECCA; the agreement covers the period of 2009 - 2012.

The focus of the UNECE-supported policy dialogue is on assistance to strengthen integrated water resources management in line with the principles of the UNECE Water Convention, the Protocol on Water and Health, the EU Water Framework Directive and other UNECE and European Union instruments.

Policy dialogues are based on extensive consultations with all relevant ministries, agencies and institutions (including science and academia), non-governmental organizations, parliamentary bodies and other international organizations. Their main outcome are so-called "policy packages", which include legislative acts, strategies, ministerial orders, and plans of implementation.

Progress on national policy dialogues on IWRM in 2009 has essentially proceeded according to plans as stated in the Agreement with a slight delay of activities, particularly those related to the start of new policy dialogues. The delays will be made up in the course of 2010.

At their Fifth Session (10-12 November 2009), the Parties to the Water Convention recognized that the National Policy Dialogues give added value to the Convention's ongoing activities on IWRM. They also acknowledged the EECCA countries' strong commitment and ownership, which is shown in the participation of high-level officials from different sectors in the NPD process, acknowledged the UNECE secretariat's important responsibility in providing key services to its partners in EECCA countries, and mandated it to continue its role as the key strategic partner of the NPD process in EECCA countries at least until 2012.













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Introduction and summary of activities in 2009

National Policy Dialogues (NPD) on *integrated water resources management* (IWRM) and *water supply and sanitation* (WSS) is the main operational instrument of the European Union Water Initiative (EUWI). This initiative, including its component for the countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA), was launched at the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002. UNECE was requested to act as strategic partner to support the policy dialogue process on integrated water resources management, whereas OECD was requested to do so for water supply and sanitation issues.

Since 2006, UNECE has been carrying out National Policy Dialogues in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine; these activities were implemented under grant agreements between the European Commission and UNECE that covered the period November 2006 - October 2008.

Since 2009, the NPD IWRM activities were implemented by UNECE under the OECD-UNECE Contribution Agreement on the National Policy Dialogue Process on IWRM in EECCA; the agreement covers the period of 2009 - 2012.

Progress on national policy dialogues on IWRM¹ has essentially proceeded according to plans as outlined in the OECD – UNECE agreement with a slight delay of activities due to the late signature of the Contribution Agreement². As a consequence, the final versions of the policy packages foreseen for Moldova and Ukraine are still to be approved in 2010 and fact-finding missions to Georgia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan had to be shifted into 2010. A dialogue meeting in Moldova, planned for December 2009, took place on 20 January 2010, due to the political situation in the country before the new Government was set in place this October. It is expected that delays incurred under the policy dialogue process in 2009 will be caught-up in the course of 2010.

With exception of the dialogue on IWRM in the Republic of Moldova, which is scheduled to be phased-out under the grant, the policy dialogues in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine will continue in 2010. New requests for NPDs have been received formally from Georgia (IWRM) and Azerbaijan (IWRM and WSS); starting the NPDs is being discussed with governments of Uzbekistan (IWRM and WSS), Tajikistan (IWRM) and Turkmenistan (IWRM).

At their Fifth Session (10-12 November 2009), the Parties to the Water Convention recognized that the NPDs give added value to the Convention's ongoing activities on IWRM. They also acknowledged the EECCA countries' strong commitment and ownership, which is

¹ For details on the NPD IWRM project, see

www.unece.org/env/documents/2009/wat/mp_wat/ECE_MP.WAT_2009_6_e.pdf (English) and www.unece.org/env/documents/2009/wat/mp_wat/ECE_MP.WAT_2009_6_r.pdf (Russian)

² The agreement for the project that started on 1 January 2009 has been signed on 31 July 2009





shown in the participation of high-level officials from different sectors in the NPD process, acknowledged the UNECE secretariat's important responsibility in providing key services to its partners in EECCA countries, and mandated it to continue its role as the key strategic partner of the NPD process in EECCA countries at least until 2012. The corresponding work programme has been agreed both by the Meeting of the Parties and by the EUWI EECCA Working Group at its 13th meeting in Bucharest (24-25 November 2009). The Parties to the UNECE Water Convention (see Annex I) and the Bureau of the Water Convention positively assessed the quality of inputs of UNECE.

Summary of activities under NPD IWRM in 2009 is presented in Table 1 below.

Meetings and documents planned and realized under the national policy dialogues on integrated water resources management					
Country	Planned 2009	Actual 2009	Planned 2010	Outputs/documents 2009 - 2010	
Armenia	3	2	2	<u>1 policy document:</u> Action plan on improving health in	
				Action plan on improving leadin in Armenia through target setting to ensure sustainable water management, access to safe water and adequate sanitation - Annex IV in a separate file	
Kyrgyzstan	4	4	2	2 policy documents:	

Table 1. Support for EUWI national policy dialogues on integrated water resources management

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