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WECCOOP

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



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BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

European Union Water Initiative and National Policy Dialogues

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Overview – EUWI and NPDs

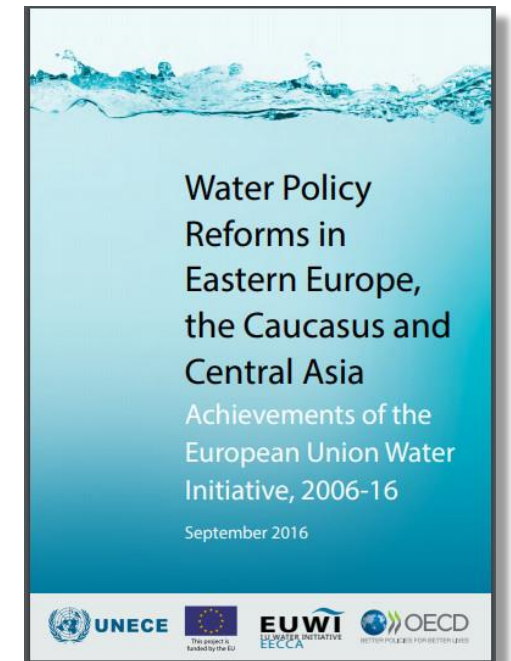


- **National Policy Dialogues** on Integrated Water Resources Management and Water Supply and Sanitation (NPDs) - intersectoral multistakeholder platforms to drive water policy reforms
- EU Water Initiative (EUWI) National Policy Dialogues started in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, facilitated jointly by UNECE and OECD, **since 2006**
- NPDs currently ongoing in **10 countries**, including **4 in Central Asia**
- High-level **intersectoral Steering Committee** meetings provide platform 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 the **European Union** within the regional European Union - Central Asia Cooperation on Water, Environment and Climate Change (**WECOOP**) programme and implemented by **UNECE in cooperation with OECD** during 2019-2022.
- EUWI NPDs are guided at the regional level by the **EU-CA Working Group on Environment and Climate Change**
- Hybrid **NPD Steering Committee meeting** in Kazakhstan in November 2020; **expert group** under NPD meetings in Kyrgyzstan in October 2020 and June 2021; **roundtable** in Tajikistan in February 2021
- Negotiations to **launch of NPD process in Uzbekistan** and **relaunch of NPD in Turkmenistan** are ongoing
- NPD meetings delayed due to COVID-19 related restrictions; plans to organise **NPD meetings** in all countries in 2021-22





SDG indicator 6.5.2 reporting

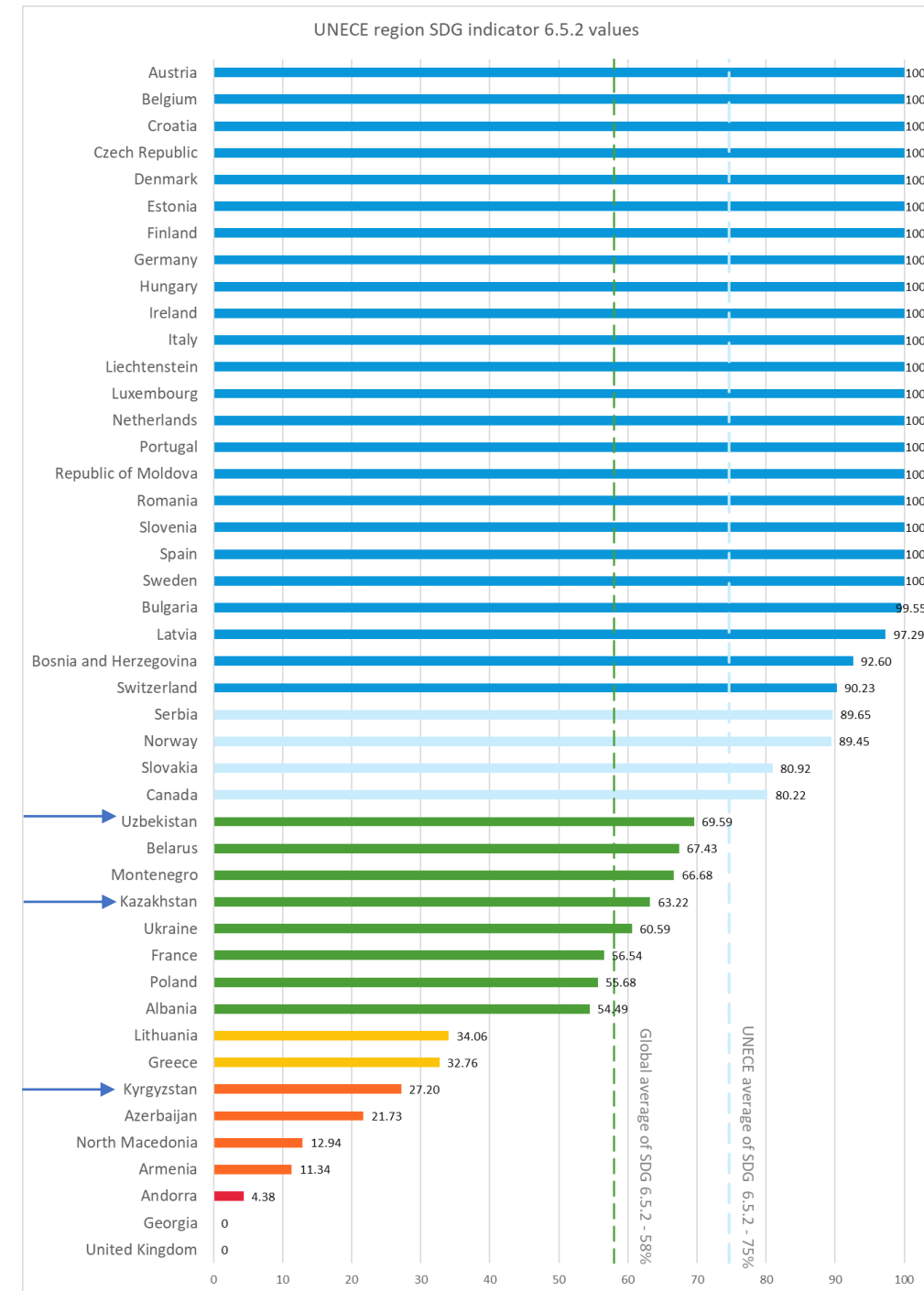
Support to reporting on **SDG indicator 6.5.2** on transboundary water cooperation provided through regional workshop and individual support to countries.

As a result, **4 countries** submitted reports to UNECE and UNESCO (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan)

None of the CA countries have all transboundary waters covered by operational arrangements

Only 2 countries with all river and lake basins covered by operational arrangements

Lack of cooperation and of data available on aquifers



Policy packages

Support to «policy packages» and investment ideas in the water sector



Kazakhstan

- Proposals developed for **a national water security indicators framework**
- Project on **water quality and accidental water pollution in the Syrdarya basin** negotiated and activities starting (in collaboration with the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC))

Objectives:

- To assess potential sources of pollution and identification of accidental pollution risks;
- To analyze the existing mechanisms for information exchange, early warning and interaction of riparian countries in case of accidental pollution;
- To develop joint measures to prevent and respond to pollution in emergency situations;
- To develop a Joint Contingency Plan for the Syrdarya River Basin.

The project was approved at the Meeting of the Joint Kazakh-Uzbek Working Group on Environment and Water Quality of the Syrdarya river.

Policy packages



Support to «policy packages» and investment ideas in the water sector

Kyrgyzstan

- **water security indicators** reflecting the transboundary dimension of water security proposed
- new methodology for **compensation of damage** to water resources and bodies developed and will be pilot tested
- investment ideas for **transboundary Chu-Talas basin** being discussed

Tajikistan

- elaboration of a methodology for the **water balance calculations** in support of the new Water Code completed

Lessons learnt and prospects



- **COVID-19** pandemic impacted negatively direct cooperation but also highlighted the importance of access to safe water and sanitation, better strategic planning in water sectors, stronger 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 countries in the region, ensure **links** with the EU Strategy on Central Asia and with the European Green Deal
- Continuous interest and support need from countries in **Central Asia**
- Need to maintain strong **ownership** by countries of NPDs and **monitor progress**
- Important to **continue exploiting NPDs** on strategic and implementation levels as well as sustain financially and logistically
- For **NPDs in Central Asia** no funding yet secured beyond September 2022
- NPDs are part of the next programme of work under the **Water Convention for 2022-2024**

Thank you



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For more information:

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

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

<https://wecoop.eu/>



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