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EUWI NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUES IN CENTRAL ASIA: results and requests for future

Seventh EU - Central Asia High Level Conference

Central Asia Nexus Dialogue: Fostering Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus and Multi-Sector Investment

Rome, 22 February 2023

European Union Water Initiative National Policy Dialogues in Central Asia: RESULTS

Common topics across Central Asian countries

- ◆ Transboundary water cooperation
- ◆ UN Water Conference 2023
- ◆ Protocol on Water and Health
- ◆ Syr Darya pollution (see a separate infographic)
- ◆ Donors contribution to national IWRM

Expressed needs for future support

- ◆ Continued intersectoral dialogue at national and regional levels
- ◆ Support to accession to the Protocol on Water and Health, setting national targets and ensuring equity of access to water and sanitation
- ◆ Cooperation on contingency pollution planning for the Syr Darya River
- ◆ PPP in water sector
- ◆ Dam safety
- ◆ Education and employment in the water sector
- ◆ Underground waters (incl. transboundary)

KAZAKHSTAN

Icons: National report on SDG indicator 6.5.2, Syr Darya pollution study, Launch of the NPD process and 1st NPD Steering Committee meeting

Discussions:

1. Analysis of national concepts for sectoral development versus long-term water availability
2. Increasing the flow of the lower Amu Darya
3. Groundwater management (incl. transboundary)
4. Discussion on effects of the collector-drainage runoff on water quality
5. Revision of standards for sewage treatment

KAZAKHSTAN

Icons: National report on SDG indicator 6.5.2, Syr Darya pollution study, 1 preparatory and 6th and 7th NPD SC meetings

Discussions:

1. Water Sector Programme until 2030, draft Water Code
2. Promotion of water-saving technologies in irrigation
3. Cooperation on the Chu and the Talas rivers
4. Groundwater management (incl. transboundary)

Investment idea: precision agriculture in the Chu & Talas basins (ref. Chu and Talas Strategic Action Programme)

KYRGYZSTAN

Icons: National report on SDG indicator 6.5.2, Development of methodology for calculating damage caused by human activities to water bodies, Elaboration of criteria for water security indicators for transboundary rivers, Update of a textbook for managing water resources and infrastructure in Kyrgyzstan, Syr Darya pollution study, 18th preparatory NPD Steering Committee meeting

Discussions:

1. National water Strategy and Water Code
2. Cooperation on the Chu and Talas rivers

Investment idea: automatization of water distribution systems in the Western Great Chu Canal (ref. the Chu and the Talas Strategic Action Programme)

UZBEKISTAN

Icons: Support to revitalization of the NPD Steering Committee, National report on SDG indicator 6.5.2

KYRGYZSTAN

Icons: Development of methodology for calculating water balances of water bodies for Tajikistan, Syr Darya pollution study, 16th NPD Steering Committee meeting

Discussions:

1. Reform of the water sector, incl. access to water, sanitation and hygiene, education and capacity building
2. IFAS reform

Investment idea: nature-based solutions for disaster risk reduction in the Zeravshan River (ref. Zeravshan River basin management plan)

TURKMENISTAN

TAJIKISTAN

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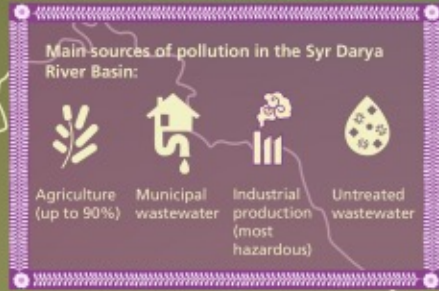
Study of pollution sources and identification of accident risks in the Syr Darya River Basin: RESULTS

Study was requested by the Joint Kazakh Uzbek Working Group on Environmental Protection and Water Quality in the Syr Darya River Basin. Its main results:

- 1 General review of pollution sources
- 2 Inventory of hazardous industrial facilities, including tailings management facilities (TMFs), and its mapping
- 3 Identification of accidental pollution risks, including Natech ('Natural Hazards Triggering Technological Disasters')
- 4 Analysis of legislation and existing information exchange mechanisms
- 5 Development of recommendations for coordinated pollution prevention measures and response to accidental water pollution

Risks identified in the Syr Darya River Basin:

- Industrial facilities, including TMFs, are located near populated areas, near rivers and in mountainous areas
- Lack of coordinated measures for prevention and emergency response
- Lack of control, monitoring and remediation at closed TMFs
- Increased landslide, flooding, mudflow and erosion processes exacerbated by ongoing climate change
- High seismic activity
- Unsatisfactory water infrastructure
- Degraded national water resource monitoring systems
- Increasing water shortages
- Limited access to centralized drinking water supply and sanitation systems



Way forward:

- Strengthen national capacities to prevent, prepare and response to industrial accidents, including Natechs, and accidental water pollution
- Enhance cooperation at the national level across institutions and sectors, and in transboundary context
- Harmonize procedures and legislation across concerned sectors
- Develop a joint contingency plan
- Foster a multi-hazard / multi-risk approach

Learn more:
www.unece.org/pollution-syr-darya-river-emergency-situations

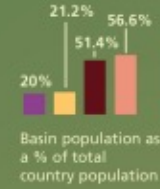
Most vulnerable tributary rivers:

- Badam
- Mailu-Suu
- Sumsar
- Kassan-Sai
- Shakhimardan-Sai
- Archasai
- Karadarya
- Okhangaron
- Chirchik

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24 million +
People live in the Syr Darya River Basin.



Most vulnerable cities:

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| 1 Shymkent | 6 Gafurov |
| 2 Kentau | 7 Istiklol |
| 3 Kazarman | 8 Almalyk |
| 4 Mailuu-Suu | 9 Angren |
| 5 Khujand | 10 Khanabad |

61 Tailings Management Facilities in the basin:



Volume of TMFs waste in the country in the Syr Darya River Basin, m³/km²:



31% (19 TMFs) are active and **54%** (33 TMFs) could have a transboundary impact in case of an accident



133 facilities with hazardous activities in the basin:



European Union Water Initiative National Policy Dialogues in Central Asia: NETWORKING & GENDER

High-level visibility of results and fostering of attention to Central Asia water sector reform, as well as capacity-building, was achieved through presentation of results, findings and challenges at high-level international meetings.



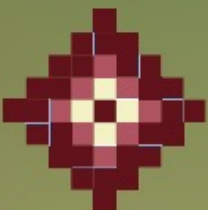
100
experts
attended

20

international and regional
events including:



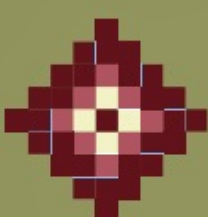
Governing Council and Economic
Forums of the United Nations
Special Programme for the
Economies of Central Asia (SPECA)



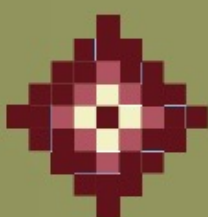
9th session of the Meeting
of the Parties to the Water
Convention



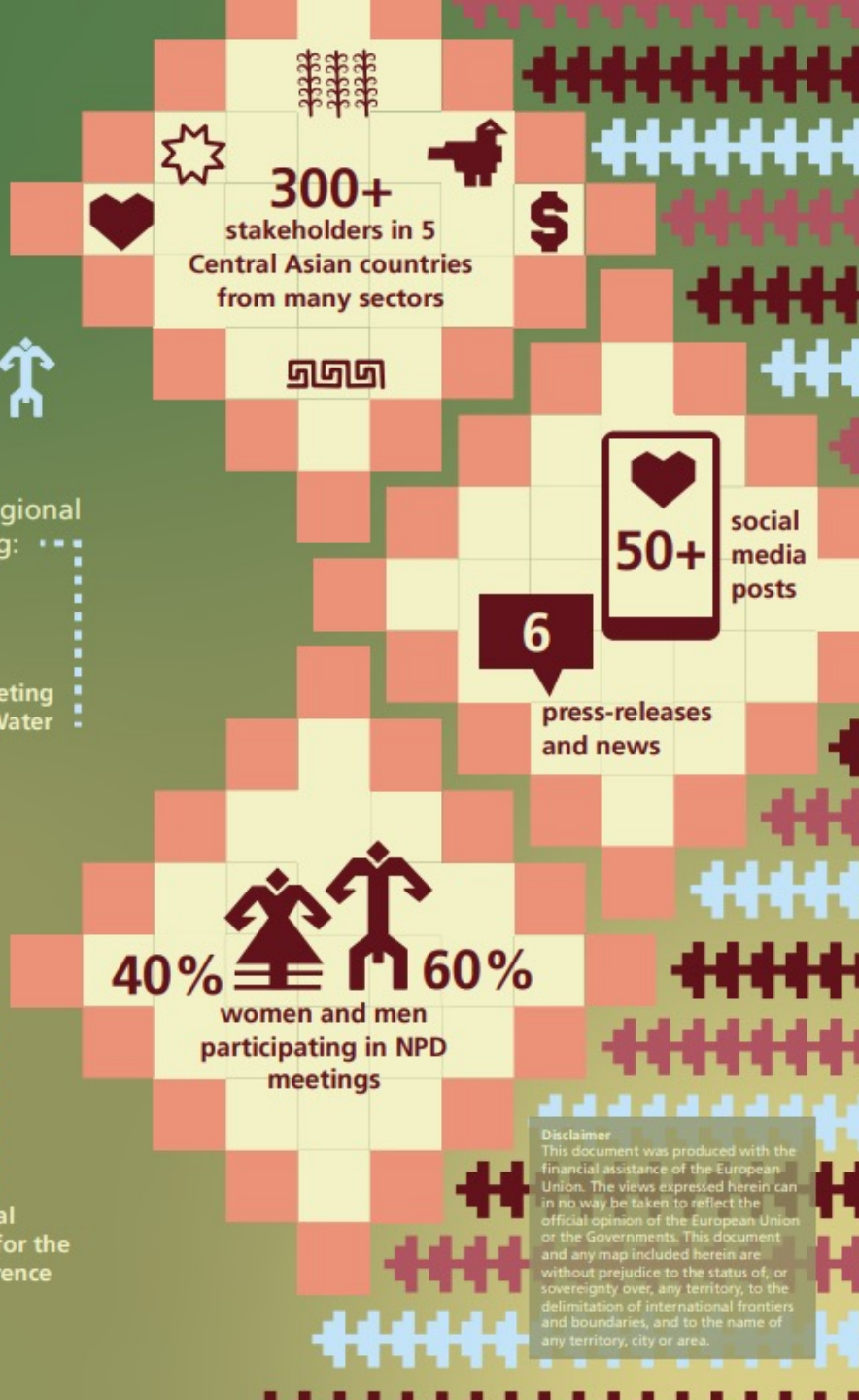
Water Convention's working
groups and task force meetings
on IWRM, water and climate,
water-food- energy-ecosystems
nexus, financing transboundary
cooperation, health and
sanitation, monitoring,
assessment, and data exchange



5th and 6th
sessions of the
Meeting of the
Parties to the
Protocol on Water
and Health



Pan-European Regional
Preparatory Meeting for the
2023 UN Water conference



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Thank you for creating together! Rahmat!



tamara.kutonova@un.org, alexander.belokurov@un.org



<https://unece.org/environment-policy/water>



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