



Funded by the
European Union

WECOOP

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

Workshop “Environmental Quality Standards”

9 and 10 February 2023

Background

Currently, in the Republic of Kazakhstan, environmental quality is assessed on the basis of short term maximum permissible concentrations (MACs) of pollutants. Existing environmental, sanitary, and hygienic standards have passed from the former USSR. The determination of MACs has always been within the competence of the Ministry of Health, but this task in line with the new Environmental Code effective July 2021 needs now to be addressed by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR) of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Currently, there are no national methods for determining environmental quality standards for humans, individual species and groups of plants, animals and other organisms. The Environmental Code in its Article 36 stipulates that the MENR develops environmental quality standards using the results of laboratory tests, research and international practice.

The MENR approached the European Union with a request for support in analysis and assessment of available analytical, legislative framework and preparation of methodological framework for the development of environmental quality standards. The EU agreed that the project “European Union – Central Asia Water, Environment and Climate Change Cooperation (WECOOP)” will prepare an introductory workshop on the European environmental quality standards and the recent experience of the new EU Member States in replacing the Soviet-based short term MACs with modern international environmental quality standards.

Objective

The purpose of the workshop is to provide an overview of the European approach to setting environmental quality standards and share experience of the new EU Member States in the transposition of these standards, particularly focusing on institutional and capacity building issues.

Speakers:

- Aiga Kāla, WECOOP Environmental Governance and Air Quality Senior Expert
- Lūcija Kursīte, WECOOP Environmental Quality Standards Senior Expert
- Valts Vilnītis, WECOOP Team leader

Language:

Russian

Location:

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AGENDA

Day 1: 9 February, employees of the MENR and regional environment control boards, Ministry of Health and Kazhydromet

14:00-14:30	Registration and coffee
14:30-15:00	Welcome note and introduction: - Yerzhan Bapanov, Head of Administration of Environmental Quality Regulation of the Department of Environmental Policy and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan - Johannes Baur, Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to Kazakhstan - Valts Vilnītis, Team Leader, WECOOP project
15:00-15:30	Environmental quality management in the EU – basic principles Q&A, discussion
15:30-16:15	Air quality standards and governance in the EU Q&A, discussion
16:15-16:30	Coffee break
16:30-17:15	Transition to the EU AQ governance system – example of Latvia
17:15-17:45	Q&A, discussion
17:45-18:00	Conclusions and the end of Day 1

Day 2: 10 February

9:30-10:30	Water quality management in the EU – basic principles Q&A, discussion
10:30-11:00	Coffee break
11:00-12:00	Transition to the EU water quality management approaches – example of Latvia Q&A, discussion
12:00-12:20	European soil quality standards
12:20-12:45	Discussion
12:45-13:00	Conclusions and closing of the workshop