

EAP Task Force



JOINT MEETING OF

**THE EAP TASK FORCE'S GROUP OF SENIOR OFFICIALS ON THE REFORMS OF THE WATER
SUPPLY AND SANITATION SECTOR IN EASTERN EUROPE, CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA**

THE EU WATER INITIATIVE'S EECCA WORKING GROUP

**EUWI-EECCA COMPONENT - ORGANISATIONAL SET-UP
TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT, EUWI-EECCA COMPONENT**

DOCUMENT 16

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1 Introduction

1. This document presents a revision of the organisational structure of the EUWI-EECCA Component which was agreed by the EUWI-EECCA Component Working Group at its meeting in Stockholm in August 2004¹. The revised organisational structure is amended as deemed necessary to reflect the developments of the EUWI-EECCA Component since then - in particular, the decision of the EUWI-EECCA Component Working Group at its meeting in Yerevan in November 2005 to develop National Policy Dialogues as a main instrument of the EUWI-EECCA Component. Furthermore, the revision reflects the need expressed by, among others, the EU Member States of applying a multilateral mechanism for the development and implementation of the National Policy Dialogues within the EUWI-EECCA Component rather than a bilateral mechanism. The organisational structure is in line with the organisational framework approved for the entire EUWI².

2 Overview

2. The implementation and co-ordination mechanisms build on existing institutions and mechanisms, as appropriate. The organisational set-up, co-ordination and management mechanisms of the partnership are illustrated in Figure 1 overleaf. In the following the different bodies mentioned in Figure 1 are dealt with - one by one. Please note that the bodies listed in the grey shaded boxes are closely linked with the National Policy Dialogues³.

3 EUWI Steering Group

3. The EUWI Steering Group is the principal decision-making body on the EU side of the global EUWI. It is chaired by the EU Commission and guides and oversees the global EUWI. The EUWI-EECCA Component Working Group, typically through its Chair, liaise with and report to the EUWI Steering Group on progress in the implementation of the EUWI-EECCA Component.

4 High Level Meeting

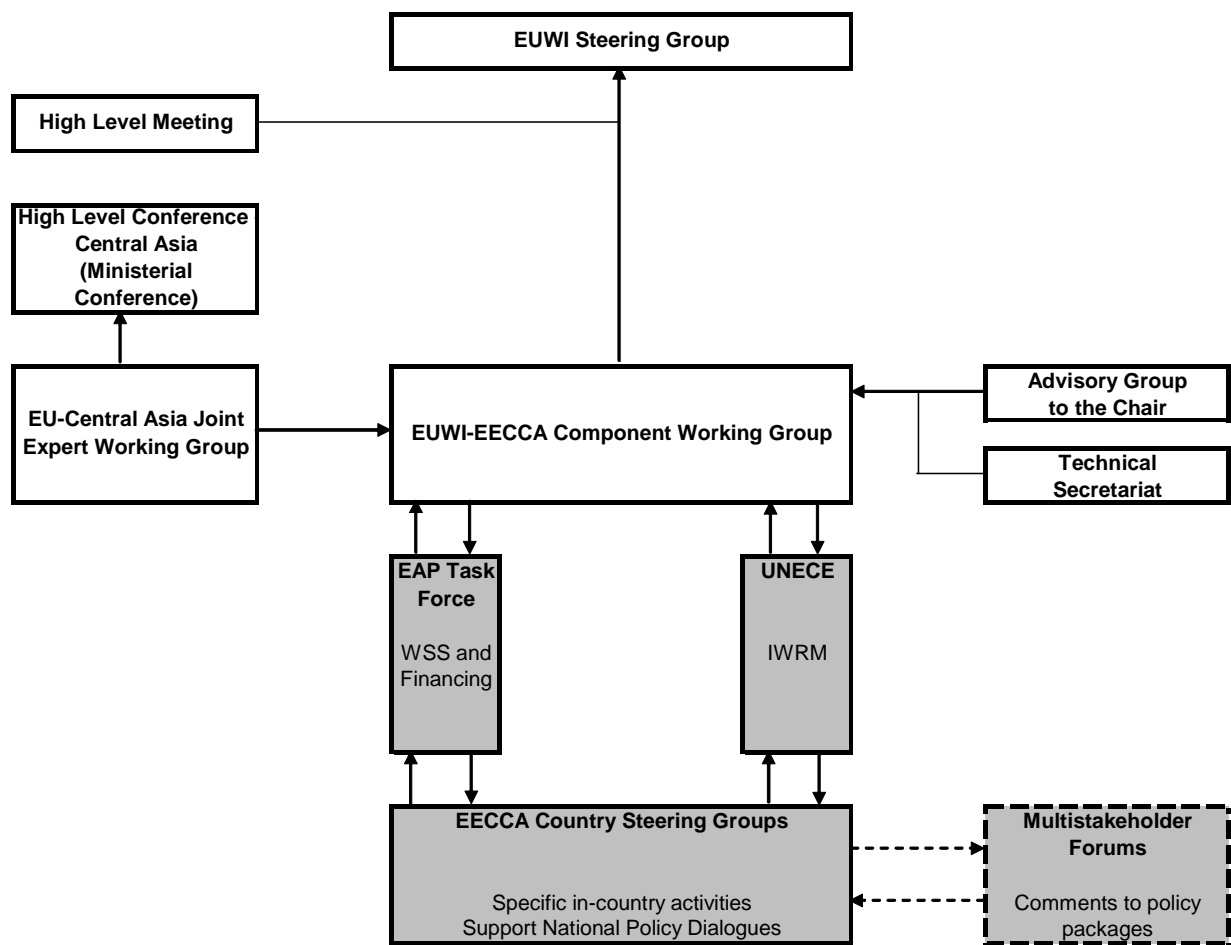
4. The High Level Meeting is the political decision-making body of the EUWI-EECCA Component. It serves the purpose of bringing together in an inclusive manner all key water sector stakeholders to endorse EUWI-EECCA Component activities, findings and recommendations. All key stakeholders within the EUWI-EECCA are invited to participate in High Level Meetings.

¹ EUWI-EECCA Component Working Group, Technical Secretariat, 2004 (a).

² European Commission, 2004.

³ See also EUWI-EECCA Component Working Group, Technical Secretariat, 2006.

Figure 1 Organisational set-up, EUWI-EECCA Component



5. The key purpose of the High Level Meeting is to:

- function as an overall guiding body to the EUWI-EECCA Component;
- function as a platform for exchange of information and experience among the partners about aid flows, policies, financing strategies and mechanisms and other issues related to the water sector in the region;
- function as a platform where the stakeholders from the EECCA countries can present their needs and priorities;
- function as a platform where IFIs and donors can present their policies, strategies and priority areas in terms of sectors and countries/regions they want to support, thereby facilitating a better co-ordination of aid flow in the region;
- approve periodical work programmes and priority projects of the EUWI-EECCA Component;
- develop recommendations, as appropriate, for submission to the EUWI Steering Group.

5 EUWI-EECCA Component WG

6. The EUWI-EECCA Component Working Group is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the EUWI-EECCA Component - in particular, the EUWI-EECCA Component Work Programme adopted at by the EUWI-EECCA Component Working Group on its meeting in Chisinau in March 2005⁴. For each of the two pillars that the EUWI-EECCA Component consists of (WSS and IWRM) existing supporting mechanisms will be relied upon, as appropriate, and the EUWI-EECCA Component Working Group will provide for liaison with key stakeholders. Terms of References for the EUWI-EECCA Component Working Group has been adopted⁵.

7. The EUWI-EECCA Component Working Group consists of representatives of the EECCA countries, EU Member States, IFIs, international organisations, NGOs and European Commission. The members of the EUWI-EECCA Component Working Group appoint a Chair and possibly Co-Chair of the EUWI-EECCA Component from among themselves. Presently, the European Commission acts as Chair.

8. A separate task of the EUWI-EECCA Component Working Group is to promote cooperation with all potential partners active in the region, including UNEP, UNDP, WHO, OSCE, GWP and RECs.

6 High Level Conference - Central Asia

9. The High Level Conference - Central Asia (frequently referred to as the Ministerial Conference) constitutes a forum where high-level representatives of the Governments of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan meet with representatives of the European Commission in charge of Environment, External Relations and EuropeAid (EC Cooperation office) and in the presence of representatives of the EU Member States, International Financing Institutions and NGOs to discuss and agree upon environmental co-operation between the countries of Central Asia and EU. The first Ministerial Conference was held on 5-6 April 2006 in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

7 EU-Central Asia Joint Expert WG

10. In the words of the Conclusions of the Ministerial Conference on enhancing environmental cooperation between the EU and the Central Asian countries held on 5-6 April 2005 in Almaty, Kazakhstan: "(...) it has been agreed to set up an EU-Central Asia Joint Expert Working Group, as the coordination and information mechanism with the EECCA Component of the EUWI, to develop and strengthen cooperation on water issues (...)"⁶.

⁴ EUWI-EECCA Component Working Group, Technical Secretariat, 2005.

⁵ EUWI-EECCA Component Working Group, Technical Secretariat, 2004 (b).

⁶ European Commission, 2006.

11. The EU-Central Asia Joint Expert Working Group will report to the EUWI-EECCA Component Working Group and also the abovementioned Ministerial Conference. The European Commission will call in meetings of EU-Central Asia Joint Expert Working Group - at least, once a year. It consists of two representatives of each Central Asian country - one expert on WSS and one expert on IWRM.

12. The objective of the EU-Central Asia Joint Expert Working Group is to guide and oversee the implementation of the EUWI-EECCA Component Work Programme in Central Asia.

8 Advisory Group to the Chair

13. The operational co-ordinating mechanism of the EUWI-EECCA Component is the Advisory Group to the Chair of the EUWI EECCA Component. Meetings are held on an ad hoc basis; they are organised by the Chair. The Advisory Group to the Chair consists of representatives of the European Commission, including DG ENV and AidCo, EU Member States, EAP Task Force and UNECE.

14. The Advisory Group to the Chair advises the Chair on: 1) agenda and inputs for meetings of the EUWI-EECCA Component Working Group; 2) development of annual work programmes; 3) mechanisms for implementation; 4) changes in organisational set-up; and 5) financing of the EUWI-EECCA Component activities. It provides only advices to the Chair.

9 EAP Task Force and UNECE

15. The EAP Task Force and UNECE play a particular role within the EUWI-EECCA Component. They are drivers in the development and implementation of National Policy Dialogues on WSS, Financing and IWRM in the EECCA region within the EUWI-EECCA Component⁷

16. The EAP Task Force has been charged with a facilitating role on WSS and Financing aspects of the EECCA Environment Strategy within the Environment for Europe process. The Group of Senior Officials for Urban Water Sector Reform established by the EAP Task Force makes an essential input to the EUWI-EECCA Component. Members of the group include EECCA government representatives responsible for urban water, as well as representatives of IFIs, donors, NGOs and private sector.

17. UNECE is very much involved in the implementation of important international conventions, such as the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention), the 1999 London Protocol on Water and Health and the 2003 Kiev Protocol on Civil Liability for Damage to Transboundary Waters.

⁷ See EUWI-EECCA Component Working Group, Technical secretariat, 2006.

10 EECCA Country Steering Groups

18. The EECCA Country Steering Groups consisting of key stakeholders within WSS, Financing and IWRM, foremost non-foreign key stakeholders, will oversee specific in-country activities (or specially designed joint activities) facilitating the National Policy Dialogues. They will assess achievements made, advice on possible changes in activities and make recommendations on the extent to which it is possible - on the basis of achievements made - to launch certain reforms.

19. For each National Policy Dialogue there will, as a rule, be one EECCA Country Steering Group. This will ensure that discussions at the EECCA Country Steering Group meetings are focused, concrete and actions oriented. In case more than one National Policy Dialogue is carried out in a country, because it has proven impossible to merge these into one, there may be more than one EECCA Country Steering Group in the country. However, all parties should make a supreme effort to ensure that there will be one (and only one) National Policy Dialogue in a country. The members of an EECCA Country Steering Group elect a Chairman from among themselves. He/she participates, as a rule, in the meetings of the EUWI-EECCA Component Working Group.

11 Multistakeholder Forums

20. In each EECCA country a Multistakeholder Forum may be established as part of the implementation of National Policy Dialogues. The word "may" is important. This is the reason why dot-and-dash lines are used in connection with the Multistakeholder Forums in Figure 1. A Multistakeholder Forum will comprise representatives of, among others, the civil society in a certain EECCA country. Its task will be to discuss and comment upon policy packages following from the National Policy Dialogues carried out in the country. It is only established if the EECCA Steering Group in question supports its establishment, one or more policy packages are fairly well-developed and possible participants in a Multistakeholder Forum are not addressed in any other way - for instance, through a public hearing to be carried out in accordance with the legislation of the EECCA country in question. If a Multistakeholder Forum is established it is being called-in on an ad-hoc basis.

12 Technical Secretariat

21. The Technical Secretariat provides support to the Chair. It works under the guidance and supervision of the Chair. It may consist of staff in the institution acting as Chair, an international organisation or another institution, organisation or company.

List of References

- European Commission: *EU Water Initiative - Organisational Framework and Modalities*. Brussels, 2004.
- European Commission: *Conclusions of the Ministerial Conference on Enhancing Environmental Cooperation between the EU and the Central Asian Countries*. Almaty, 2006.
- EUWI-EECCA Component Working Group, Technical Secretariat: *Organisational Set-up*. Copenhagen, 2004 (a).
- EUWI-EECCA Component Working Group, Technical Secretariat: *Terms of Reference for Working Group*. Copenhagen, 2004 (b).
- EUWI-EECCA Working Group, Technical Secretariat: *EUWI-EECCA Component - Draft Work Programme*. Brussels, 2005.
- EUWI-EECCA Component Working Group, Technical Secretariat: *National Policy Dialogues - From Work Programme to Action*. Brussels, 2006.