


E A P TASK FORCE

OECD  OCDE

Outline Paper on Implementing the Almaty Guiding Principles

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Objective of the Discussion

- **To describe the situation in the EECCA water supply and sanitation sector**
- **To identify key areas where progress has been achieved, and where more efforts are needed**



Structure of the paper

1. Current state of WSS sector in EECCA
2. Legal and institutional reforms undertaken since Almaty
 1. Establishing Strategic objectives
 2. Reforming of institutions and clarifying their roles
 3. Establishing a framework for financial sustainability
 4. Promoting efficiency and cost-effective use of resources
3. Sequencing of reforms

Key Issues – Current state of the WSS sector

- **WSS infrastructure has been deteriorating further over the last years**
- **Connection rates to WSS remain at high levels but the quality of services is deteriorating**
- **This impacts public health and environmental quality**
- **Some improvements can be seen in water production and consumption, and in the collection of bills**

Key Issues – Legal and Institutional Reforms since Almaty 2000

- **The situation across EECCA is very disparate**
- **Some countries have undertaken important reform efforts, while others have done little**
- **Main areas where progress has been achieved:**
 - **Establishing strategic objectives at national/regional level**
 - **Reform packages for the Housing and Communal Services Sector**
 - **Framework legislation for tariff-setting**
 - **Some best practice examples of reforming utility-municipality relations and establishing utilities as autonomous, commercially-run entities**

Key Issues – Legal and Institutional Reforms since Almaty 2000 (continued)

- **Main areas where significant additional efforts are required**
 - **A backlog of reforms and lack of capacity at the municipal level is proving to be a key obstacle to progress, i.e.**
 - **Utility – municipality relations**
 - **Autonomy of utilities**
 - **Financial planning capacity**
 - **Establishing a framework for financial sustainability**
 - **Improving the efficiency of utility operations**



Inputs for the background paper

- **EAP TF survey of water utility performance in 9 EECCA countries**
- **EAP TF survey of legal and institutional reforms in 6 EECCA countries**
- **EAP TF and World Bank papers on PSP in EECCA**
- **WHO Health for All Database**

Possible issues for Ministerial discussion

- **Where has progress been achieved and where are additional efforts needed?**
- **Where should reform efforts be deployed in priority and where would international assistance be most helpful?**
- **Are the Almaty Guiding Principles still a valid framework for sector reform?**