

EAP Task Force

Document 29

**Joint Meeting of the EU Water Initiative's EECCA
Working Group and the EAP Task Force Environmental Finance
and Water Networks**
29 March –1 April 2005, Chisinau, Moldova

**Strategic Partnership on
Water for Sustainable Development**

EECCA – Component of the EU Water Initiative

ACTION REQUIRED: for approval and endorsement

October 2004

1. Background

This document presents the proposed organisational structure of the EECCA component of the EU Water Initiative. It builds on the description of the Programme Document¹, presented at the Ministerial Meeting in Kiev in May 2003, and is amended as deemed necessary to reflect later organisational developments and decisions, notably the organisational framework approved for the entire EUWI²

2. Organisation and co-ordination of the Partnership

The implementation and co-ordination mechanisms build on existing institutions and mechanisms, as appropriate. Existing mechanisms and organisations that have been considered comprise those related to on-going collaboration such as the Environment for Europe process as well as national, regional and international organisations. Several of the relevant organisations have expressed interest in contributing to the Partnership. As the Partnership contributes to the implementation of the water-related activities of the EECCA Environment Strategy, it is important that clear links are established between the co-ordination and implementation mechanisms of the Partnership and those that have responsibility for the implementation of the EECCA Environment Strategy³. The organisational set-up, co-ordination and management mechanisms of the Partnership are illustrated in Figure 1. The different elements and their respective roles and responsibilities are briefly described below.

The Working Group of the Partnership is responsible for overseeing the implementation of EUWI-EECCA which includes two components: a) Water supply and sanitation, and b) integrated water resources management, including transboundary river basin management and regional seas issues. For each component, existing supporting mechanisms will be relied upon, as appropriate, and the WG will provide for liaison with key stakeholders. ToR for the Working Group have been developed and describe the operation and constitution of the Working Group.

¹ "Strategic Partnership on Water for Sustainable Development – EECCA Component of the EU Water Initiative. Programme Document", submitted by Government of Denmark to the Fifth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe", Kiev 21-23 May 2003

² "EU Water Initiative. Organisational Framework and Modalities", Final version (9 July 2004), by EU Commission

³ "Environmental Partnerships in the UNECE Region: Environment Strategy for Countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia", Fifth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe", Kiev, 21-23 May 2003, by the Steering group on Environment Strategy for countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.

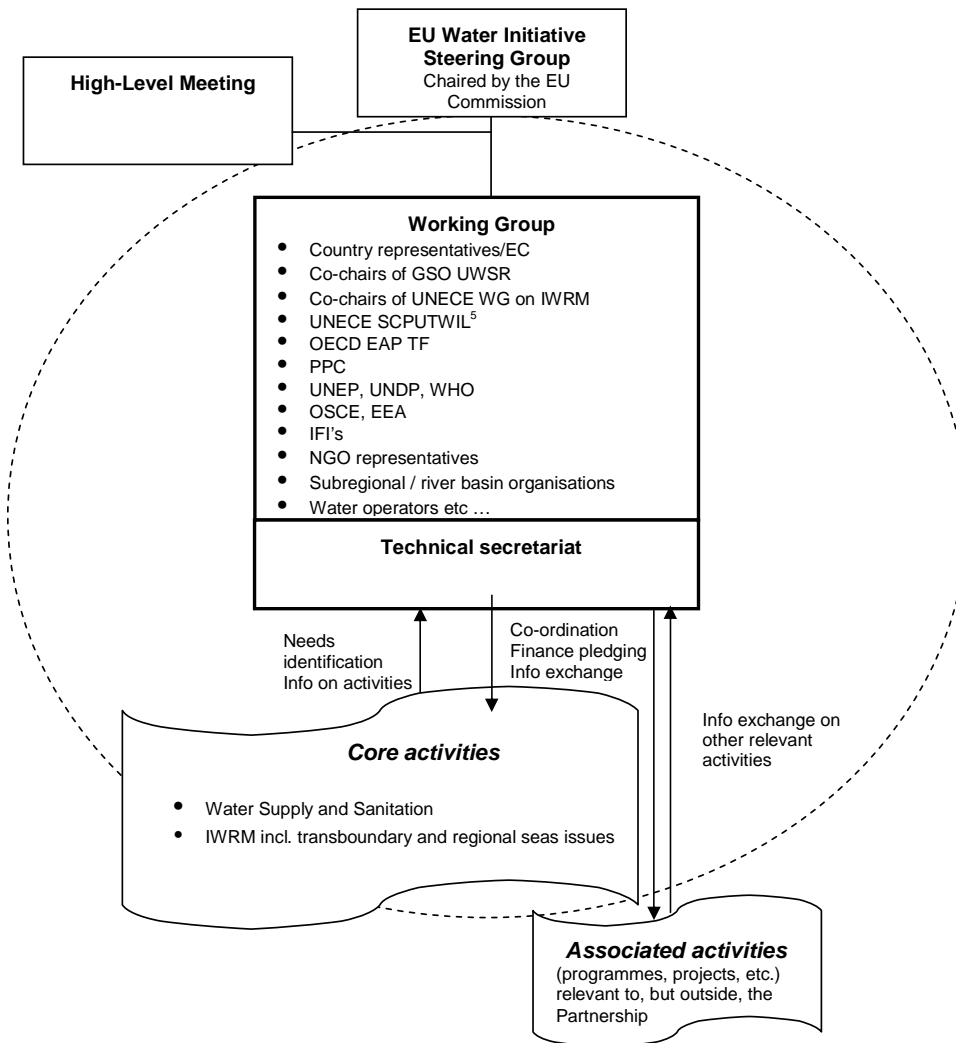


Figure 1 Organisational structure of the Strategic Partnership on Water for Sustainable Development

3. Co-ordination mechanisms for the thematic components

The co-ordinating mechanisms to be set in place will build, whenever appropriate, on those institutions and organisations who have supported the “Environment for Europe” process and the development of the “Environmental Partnerships in the UNECE Region: Environment Strategy for Countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia”, notably the OECD EAP TF on Water Supply and Sanitation and the UNECE Secretariat on IWRM.

Comment: If the EAP TF will be restructured to include all activities in EECCA region, there will be no need for separate co-ordination mechanisms

⁵ Secretariat for the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International

Water supply and sanitation

Both the OECD EAP Task Force Secretariat and WHO Euro have been charged with facilitating roles on water and sanitation aspects of the EECCA Environment Strategy. The Project Preparation Committee is also an important actor when it comes to issues of mobilisation of financial resources. The existing Group of Senior Officials for Urban Water Sector Reform established within the Task Force Framework makes an essential input to this component, especially on urban water supply and sanitation. Members of the Group include EECCA government representatives responsible for urban water, donors, IFIs, NGOs and the private sector.

Existing activities make important contributions to EUWI-EECCA through:

- assessing the priority needs of the EECCA countries, and recommending on key donor activities that would be relevant and effective to address those needs;
- supporting a process of mutual learning by doing among partners in the region through exchange of information and experience
- carrying out various types of analyses and disseminating the results
- promoting partnership among EECCA governments, private sector, NGOs, academia, international organisations, donors and IFIs
- supporting implementation of the partnership objectives through their respective work programmes
- contributing to establishing indicators and monitoring the progress towards the goals of the partnership

Integrated water resources management

UNECE is an important actor in this area inter alia through the preparation and assistance in the implementation of important international conventions like 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.

Cooperation with other potential partners active in the region (such as UNEP, UNDP, WHO, OSCE, GWP, RECs, etc) should also be actively sought as all these bodies have expressed their willingness to participate actively in the coordination and implementation of the partnership's activities.

Existing activities make important contributions to EUWI-EECCA through:

- Assessing priority needs for EECCA countries, recommending key activities that would be relevant and effective to address those needs
- Supporting a process a 'mutual learning by doing' among partners in the region through exchange of information and experience, including workshops and training courses
- Carrying out various types of analyses and disseminating the results
- Promoting the collaboration between national ministries/partner groups and the different transboundary and regional networks in the EECCA area as well the regional environmental centres.
- Supporting implementation of EUWI-EECCA objectives to be defined through their respective work programmes
- Contributing to establishing indicators and monitoring progress towards the goals of the partnership.

The recent enlargement of the EU provides new opportunities in the field of IWRM in the EECCA region, especially for those EECCA partners that share river basins with the enlarged EU as the EU

Water Framework Directive foresees that EU Member States should cooperate with their non-EU neighbours on shared transboundary river basins with a view to developing transboundary river basin management plans. The process of joint activities between the WFD and the EUWI, which is being developed as part of the EUWI, will offer further avenues for exchanges between the EU and EECCA on lessons learned from the WFD experience which may be of interest to EECCA partners.

4. Overall co-ordination and guidance – links to other fora

The Working Group: The Working Group is responsible for overseeing the implementation of EUWI-EECCA. See separate ToR for further details.

The Inter-governmental Co-ordination body for the EECCA Environment Strategy (the EAP Task Force): The EAP Task Force, established under the Environment for Europe process, was asked by Ministers at the 2003 Kiev Environment for Ministers meeting to facilitate, support and monitor the implementation of the EECCA Environment Strategy. Therefore, the Working Group will report regularly to the EAP Task Force on the progress of implementation of the EUWI-EECCA as the latter is a contribution to the EECCA Environment Strategy.

The High-Level Meeting (HLM): This forum will be used as the main political decision-making body of the Partnership. All major stakeholder groups relevant to the Strategic Partnership will be invited to participate in HLMs. Therefore, this forum serves the purpose of bringing together in an inclusive manner the water sector stakeholders to endorse EUWI-EECCA activities.

The key purpose of the High-Level Meeting is:

- to function as an overall guiding body to EUWI-EECCA,
- to 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.
- to function as a platform where the stakeholders from the EECCA countries can present their needs and priorities,
- to function as a platform where donors and IFIs can present their policies and priority areas in terms of sectors and countries/regions they want to support. This should facilitate a better co-ordination of aid flow in the region.
- to approve periodical Action Programmes and priority projects of EUWI-EECCA
- to develop recommendations, as appropriate, for submission to the EUWI Steering Group

The lead country or organisation will ensure that secretariat support is made available to assist the Working Group in its tasks as well as to ensure the smooth running of EUWI-EECCA.

This secretarial support will co-ordinate and manage the day-to-day co-ordination and representational functions, which can not be done at the component level, under the guidance of the Working Group.

The work will be closely co-ordinated with support agencies and organisations to avoid duplications with existing activities (eg EAP TF).

The EUWI Steering Group: The EUWI Steering Group (EUWI SG) is the principal decision-making body on the EU-side of the global EU Water Initiative, chaired by the EU Commission, guiding and overseeing the global EU Water Initiative. The Working Group, typically through the lead country or organisation, will liaise with and report to the EUWI SG on progress in the implementation of the Strategic Partnership and its two thematic components. Furthermore, the Working Group will submit ToR and periodical work programmes for approval to the EUWI SG (subject to initial approval by the High-Level Meeting).

5. Country level co-ordination

The Partnership will use and rely on existing implementation mechanisms at the national level, bringing together the important national stakeholders from government, private sector and civil society as well as the EU and other donor representatives and international organisations. If such co-ordinating mechanisms do not exist at country level, they may be established and supported through the Partnership. In relation to the Partnership the main functions of country level co-ordination groups will among other things be:

- to function as a platform for exchange of information and experience among the partners about aid flows and policies related to water in the country,
- to facilitate co-ordination of identification and implementation of priority actions at national level.