

2.3. Azerbaijan



<i>NPD launched</i>	2010
<i>Present NPD Chair(s) and strategic partners in government</i>	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources State Water Agency (Ministry of Emergencies) Ministry of Economic Development
<i>Sources of funding for NPD</i>	European Union, Government of Finland, Government of Germany, OSCE

PRIORITY AREAS OF WORK AND MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Development of the National Water Strategy for the management of water resources and an action plan for its implementation.
- Harmonisation of water legislation with the EU legislation and IWRM principles.
- Promotion of transboundary water diplomacy and co-operation with neighbouring Georgia, including the finalisation of a bilateral agreement on the management of shared water resources.
- Reform of economic instruments for water management in Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE NPD

- The **National Water Strategy** has been drafted. It will be submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers for approval in 2016.
- In 2015-2016, national targets under the UNECE-WHO/ Europe Protocol on Water and Health were drafted.
- A benchmarking study on water utilities has strengthened the capacity of Azeri authorities to **monitor the performance of the water supply and sanitation sector**. This already contributes to improved policy making in the WSS sector.
- Developments in negotiating a **bilateral agreement with Georgia** on joint management of the transboundary Kura river basin have been reported and discussed at the NPD Steering Committee meetings.
- A pilot project was completed for testing the approach of **water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus** in transboundary Alazani river basin, which is shared by Azerbaijan and Georgia.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

- The National Water Strategy is expected to be formally adopted. Work on water-sector legislation will follow.
- Support to water diplomacy between Azerbaijan and Georgia will continue through an assessment of the potential economic benefits of enhanced transboundary co-operation and through negotiations on a bilateral agreement.
- In 2016 the national targets under the Protocol on Water and Health will be formally adopted.
- Transboundary water management and reforms that will facilitate investment in water infrastructures and water services are promising avenues for further work, in line with the Government's priorities.

PROGRESS IN MAIN WORK AREAS

