The European Union Water Initiative in the EECCA countries: Future Developments

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Political priorities:

- Global ambition: sustainable inclusive socio-economic development, security & stability
  - Water-energy-food security nexus
  - Green economy agenda
  - Water diplomacy

Key principles:

- Comprehensive approach: environmental, social and economic components
- National Policy dialogues, an inclusive multi stakeholder policy process at national level to define priorities in the long term and appropriate reforms
- Regional dimension and collaboration, transboundary waters and exchange of experience
- Support to change for ambitious and fair reforms, and support to their implementation
- Promote international conventions & best practice and EU experience
- Coordination of all initiatives. Key role of partner country
The EUWI: an umbrella initiative

- EUWI as an **umbrella initiative** for water policy **at national level**.
  - Policy changes and ambitious reforms: see more benefits than challenges
  - Work at policy level needs link with projects in the field to implement the policy reform agenda, test its effectiveness and obtain direct feedback
  - Exchange of experience between national processes
  - Focus on policy and technical assistance. Support to investment should come from Banks (EBRD & EIB - NIF & IFCA)

- EUWI as an **umbrella initiative** for **regional collaboration**, particularly on transboundary waters
  - Establishment of mechanisms to work together for mutual benefits
  - Towards development of river basin management plans
The EUWI EECCA: related projects

- Main related ongoing initiatives in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus
- Platforms for EaP and Central Asia – Romania, Italy
- Programmes
  
  **EU funded - regional:**
  
  - EU WI EECCA (OECD-UNECE)
  - Environmental Protection of International Rivers (EPIRB)
  - Towards a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS)
  - European Union regional environmental programme for Central Asia (EURECA)

  **EU funded - bilateral:**
  
  - Water Sector Budget Support in Ukraine and Moldova
  - Environment & water one of the pillars of EU-CA strategy for a new partnership

  **MS funded:**
  
  - Finland - FinWaterWEI I & II
  - Germany
EUWI EECCA: what coordination is about

Coordination in targeting and designing interventions

- Division of labour, open communication channels between ministries, selection of pilot river basins
- Select and prioritize areas of intervention at national / trans-boundary level
- NPDs should also focus on identifying opportunities for future investments with a view to ensure post-project sustainability of results

Coordination in data collection and sharing

- Data use & sharing for policy-making is unsatisfactory (SEIS !)
- Fragmented data collection practices, different methodologies, limited compatibility of countries' data collection systems
- EU supports partner countries to overcome such constraints through TA projects at national level and in the field (sampling, processing, testing, methodology etc.)
EUWI beyond 2014 currently under review by the European Commission services:

- Future budget & strategy still not defined
- Continuation of EU support possible but depends on:
  - results achieved (intermediate milestones) and expected impacts
  - countries' commitment
  - sustained momentum for the NPD
  - Regional dimension
  - Ambition of the reforms & approximation to EU acquis & experience (WFD, int. conventions & commissions)

Future support method & priorities will be based on project results assessment and on the signals provided by Partner Countries: trans-boundary dimension will be crucial
Thank you for your attention!

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