

Belarus

Quarter 3 Highlights



[A one-month public consultation on the Environmental Report on SEA of the draft Water Strategy](#) was concluded in August 2020 with inputs from government bodies and public organisations. The [Environmental Report on the SEA](#) was posted on the websites of CRICUWR, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus, as well as regional executive committees and the Minsk City Executive Committee. Comments received during the consultation stage will help to finalise the SEA report and the draft Water Strategy 2030.

A synthesis report about Water Security in Belarus was finalised, involving all EUWI+ partners.

A report recommending priorities for surface water resources use for irrigated agriculture and for watering existing peat-hags was prepared. The report focuses on the Gomel region and was presented to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food on 28 September 2020. The meeting was also attended by representatives of GPO "Belmeliovodkhoz"; the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection; CRICUWR; the State Committee for Property of the Republic of Belarus; and the Gomel Regional Executive Committee. The meeting recommended presentation of results at the next meeting of the Pripyat Basin Council on 15-16 October 2020.

Work continued working on OECD-led pilot studies on sludge treatment and on improving environmental tax regarding taxation of discharges of pollutants in wastewaters.

The Republican Centre for Analytical Control, in partnership with EUWI+, continued the preparation for renovation of the chemical laboratory in Minsk. Internal renovation works began on access corridors of the chemical laboratory. Key laboratory equipment (SPE system) was delivered for installation. The procured atomic fluorescence spectrometer (AFS) was successfully installed in the RCAC Gomel laboratory with equipment and software training for laboratory personnel. It will strengthen analysis capacity in this region.

In July 2020 specialists of CRICUWR completed the second field survey for Uza river and Mogilev urban water streams. CRICUWR continued the implementation of the pilot project "Development of sub-basin management plan for Uza river and urban watercourses in Mogilev (Dnieper river basin)". The draft sub-basin management plans were prepared in Russian.

A draft guideline for improvement of the national river basin planning framework was discussed between CRICUWR and EUWI+ experts, and finalised for submission to the ministry.

Progress was made towards establishing a data server, with contracts prepared and required registration documentation submitted for review. The contract for the server was signed on 30 July 2020. The installation is on-going.

CRICUWR continued implementing the project "Strengthening of public communication and awareness in the Dnieper and Pripyat river basins in Belarus". The draft book "Springs of Belarus" was prepared and adopted by OIEau and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus; it will be printed in early October 2020.

On 31 July 2020, reports on a schoolchildren contest for the best works in the field of water resources protection were provided on [Dnieper Day in Belarus](#); and the electronic layout of the book "Springs of Belarus", focussing on the Grodno region, were submitted to the EUWI+ team.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus changed the date of the International Water Forum "Springs of Belarus" from 2-3 November 2020 to 18-19 March 2020, after taking into account the situation with COVID-19 in Belarus.

Transboundary coordination of groundwater bodies and the groundwater monitoring network between Belarus and Ukraine in the Pripyat basin was ongoing.

The Surface Water Monitoring Development Plan was under final development. A range of required equipment for biological surface water monitoring under the Water Framework Directive is being delivered. Two surface water training videos on a second biological quality element, phytobenthos (diatoms), were produced and will be published in Q4.

A training concerning the concept of Investigative Monitoring took place in a webinar on 29 July 2020 and preparations for a pilot survey proceeded.

