Regional
2020 Q1: Achievements

A strong feature of the EUWI+ project is the opportunity for regional exchange of good practices and lessons learned. On 26-27 February in Tbilisi, Georgia, a two-day regional workshop on sharing best practices on how to design, perform and evaluate public consultations on river basin management plans was delivered. The workshop gathered 45 specialists on water resources management and communication from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. International experts from the EUWI+ project team introduced theoretical and practical sessions closely related to the real situation in the countries and pilot basins.

The workshop aimed to develop guidelines for public consultations based on experience in the region and on best practices developed under the WFD. A sub-regional workshop on groundwater status assessment, scheduled for mid-March in Tbilisi, had to be cancelled due to Covid-19.

On World Water Day, a series of local events had been planned in several countries under the global title “Water can help fight climate change!” As they all had to be cancelled due to Covid-19, an online campaign from 10 to 22 March succeeded to gain public attention on water and climate change.

Project Management

All EUWI+ implementing partners met in Vienna in February 2020 to review the progress achieved and discuss the work plan for the final year of implementation. This included preparation for national events to share the results and lessons learned of EUWI+. In March, DG NEAR granted a six months project extension that the partners had requested, thus allowing a more comprehensive project execution until the end of February 2021.
Look ahead to Q2

As we look ahead to Q2 2020, project activities are highly dependent upon the situation regarding Covid-19. At the time of writing, the country pages present the highlights planned for each country.

Based on the Coronavirus crisis, planned equipment installations and trainings by suppliers for laboratory equipment have had to be postponed. This puts pressure on the future project schedule, as this step has to be completed before method trainings with the new equipment can be performed.

Groundwater staff from Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine were set to present their progress at the General Assembly of the European Geosciences Union in early May. Due to Covid-19, the conference has been moved online, and our beneficiaries will participate.

The EUWI+ project will be working at a regional level on the following communication materials:

- updating the consultation documents and informational documents that will be used during the RBMP consultation processes
- EUWI+ key achievements leaflet, that will highlight the tangible results of EUWI+ in sustainable water management and the benefits for EaP citizens.
- Key messages to link the EUWI+ project and its benefits to improve health will be developed.

For the dissemination of methodological documents on WFD implementation, a guideline identifying the main methodological documents published will be prepared.

An international coordination meeting gathering the authorities in charge of RBM Planning within the Prut basin, initially planned around the World Water Day, will be rescheduled once the Covid-19 situation allows. The Moldovan authorities are leading this initiative through their year of presidency of the ICPDR.