The role of sanitation and personal hygiene has been the subject of increased global attention in response to the Covid-19 crisis. Water clearly has a critical role to play in this discussion and recovery plans. The EUWI+ project has held water and sanitation and access to safe and affordable services at its core. On 20 February, the EUWI+ team participated in the Meeting of the Environmental Law Committee of the Professional Association of the Ecologists of Ukraine, and presented the draft of National Targets under the Protocol on Water and Health to the UNECE Water Convention and requested the representatives of the central executive authorities to promote the official approval of these targets. On 12 March, the EUWI+ project held a meeting to discuss implementation of the EU Drinking Water Directive in Ukraine. Experts discussed the existing State Sanitary Norms and Rules for the centralised drinking water supply to the population.

In January, meetings were held with the two Deputy Ministers acting as interim and new National Focal Point, notably on the Country Investment Budget. This triggered provisions of various project documents. A needs assessment and procurement of consumables for the analytical methods trainings commenced to allow successful delivery of trainings on site.

The monitoring survey report of the groundwater survey in 2019 has been finalised. A final draft of the report on the risk assessment of groundwater bodies and the transboundary harmonisation of groundwater bodies with Belarus was submitted and awaits final review.

The technical inputs for the first part of the RBMP for the whole Dnieper have been finalised, these include cost recovery and pressures and risk analysis and environmental objectives.
The high-level laboratory opening event in Kyiv-Vyshhorod, originally planned for 19 March 2020, has been postponed to July 2020. This date is under review subject to improvement of the Covid-19 situation.

The planned surface water surveys have been postponed however, preparation will continue regarding site selection, logistics and contracting to ensure a continuation as soon as the situation allows. It might be necessary to find alternatives to transboundary activities, such as sub-regional workshops and transboundary fieldwork. In Q2, suppliers will deliver equipment required for biological monitoring of surface waters, and we will start procuring hydrological monitoring equipment. Conceptual preparations for introducing investigative monitoring are ongoing. The further work on transboundary harmonisation and monitoring of groundwater bodies together with Belarus will be prepared.

Work on monitoring documents including RBMP monitoring chapter, thematic summaries, monitoring development plans and ecological status classification system, continues as planned and is expected to be finalised by the end of Q2.

EUWI+ will continue to support the Kyiv-Vyshgorod laboratory through trainings on quality management and on new equipment. We will also support the laboratory that is responsible for analysing groundwater samples by procuring additional equipment and training its staff.

Based on the wrap up of the final draft RBMP for the whole Dnieper basin, including 5 large sub-basins, the consultation documents for the first consultation on the main issues for the Dnipro river basin will be prepared. The consultation will be launched during Q2, initially in a digital format.

A Letter of Agreement will be prepared for the acquisition of a data server for the Central Geophysical Observatory and exchanges will be relaunched as far as possible to progress on the terms of reference for the update of the Water Agency monitoring database.

Look ahead to Q2