

Azerbaijan

Quarter 1 Highlights



The Water Strategy's Action Plan, developed with support of EUWI+, was submitted by MENR to the Water Commission and other related organisations for review and consideration. This document remains under review ahead of adoption and implementation.

Data from the national report under the Water Convention and SDG indicator 6.5.2. was officially made available at the [UN SDG 6 monitoring website](#).

The draft chapters relevant for the RBMP on the Kura basin upstream of the Mingachevir Dam have been finalised during Q1 and the draft synthesizing version of the RBMP, prepared in Azeri and English language for submission in Quarter 2 to the beneficiaries.

Further work on the online Public Consultations of the Draft Kura basin upstream of the Mingachevir Dam RBMP was continued in the first quarter of 2021, in close cooperation with Regional Offices of MENR in the pilot area. The [report on public consultations held in summer 2020](#) (programme of measures) has been published.

EUWI+ supported field visits for expert representatives of MENR to 8 hydrological sites to finalise the rehabilitation process. New hydrological gauging equipment has been installed by local subcontractors at relevant sites and became operational, providing online data transfer to Hydromet in Baku.

The final draft report on developing a water allocation strategy in the pilot basin area of the Kura upstream of the Mingachevir Dam was prepared during Quarter 1 and is under final review by EUWI+ experts.

The draft reports "Surface water monitoring development plan for Azerbaijan: Biological monitoring" and "Groundwater monitoring development plan for Azerbaijan" were prepared and will support the process of introducing a WFD compliant monitoring in Azerbaijan.

EUWI+ continued to support of the process of implementing the Action Plan on rational use of water resources in 2020-2022, which was approved by the Order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on 27 July 2020. The main actions of EUWI+ concern an alignment with the application of the WFD and IWRM approach in Azerbaijan, including reforming institutional settings towards RBMP development. The Action Plan also includes future support to finalise negotiations on the Kura Agreement and possible support for its implementation (once signed) and further support to implement the Water Convention and reporting under SDG indicator 6.5.2. Adoption of the draft Water Strategy also features prominently.

The Pressure and Impact Analysis of the transitional and coastal water bodies in the Kura River Delta, including the eastern part of the Kura-Aras River Basin in Azerbaijan, has been completed.

In relation to data management, [an online interactive dashboard](#) was developed for water body status visualisation. On occasion of the EUWI+ campaign for World Water Day, [a post referring to this major output for water data management](#) has been published on the EUWI+ Facebook page.

A solvent evaporator, which is needed for organic sample preparation, was delivered in February 2021 to the AZELAB laboratory in Baku.

A remote audit was conducted in February 2021 for the AZELAB laboratory in Baku on quality control and quality management documentation in support of its progress towards international accreditation.

Quarter 2 Look ahead

Priorities for Quarter 2 2021 in Azerbaijan include:

- Finalisation and submission to MENR of the RBMP for the Kura basin upstream of the Mingachevir dam.
- Finalisation and submission to MENR of the Water Allocation Strategy report for the Kura upstream of Mingachevir dam.
- Translation of the P&I analysis of the transitional and coastal water bodies in the Kura River Delta, including the eastern part of the Kura-Aras River Basin in Azerbaijan, in Azeri language and its submission to MENR.
- Delivery of remaining laboratory equipment and consumables by June 2021.
- Starting transfer of data management tools on the virtual machine located on the server purchased by EUWI+ and located at MENR, and updating of the application allowing “real time” hydrological data integration and visualisation on this server.
- Finalisation of a national guidance on participative river basin management planning.
- Finalisation, translation and publication of the report “Surface water monitoring development plan for Azerbaijan: Biological monitoring”.
- Finalisation of the report “Investigative monitoring – surface water survey capacity building in Azerbaijan”.
- Finalisation and publication of the report “Groundwater monitoring development plan for Azerbaijan”.
- Installation of the CTW sampling and analytical equipment, along with MENR laboratory training on the determination of supporting quality elements and Chlorophyll a in samples from the Baku Bay coastal water body.
- Finalisation of a pre-audit assessment report summarizing all project activities for the technical support for laboratory accreditation and recommendations for further need of action.
- Assistance of MENR on the production and visualisation of data from 8 hydrological monitoring stations that were recently rehabilitated.
- Organisation of the next National Policy Dialogue on Water planned for the end of April 2021.