

# Belarus

## Quarter 1 Highlights



On 4 March 2021, a [Technical Workshop](#) was held on the EUWI+ progress achieved in Belarus and its outlook. Experts from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, local NGOs, Belarussian experts and the EUWI+ implementing partners participated. The EU Delegation to Belarus opened the workshop which took stock of key results of the EUWI+ project. [More information on the meeting.](#)

At the end of March 2021, the revised targets under 17 priority areas under the Protocol of on Water and Health - from quality of drinking water and reduction of water-related diseases – to access to drinking water and sanitation, recreational water safety, wastewater treatment and water resources management were adopted jointly by three key ministries at the Minister level. More information [here](#).

In January 2021, the experts of CRICUWR completed the implementation of the pilot project “Development of sub-basin management plans for Uza River and urban watercourses in Mogilev (Dnieper river basin)” and submitted the final report to IOW. The concept of sub-basin management plan is new in Belarus and is part of the nested planned process at river basin scale.

The final English version of the reference manual concerning the pressure assessment of diffuse sources of pollution on water bodies was delivered. The Russian version was discussed and approved by the concerned Ministries. The manual was developed and illustrated from Dnieper and Pripjat RBMPs experiences.

A remote audit was conducted in January 2021 for the RCAC laboratories in Minsk and Gomel on the status of quality control and quality management documentation in support of progress towards transposition of the existing accreditation to the new edition of the EN ISO/IEC 1705:2017 standard. In March 2021, a pre-audit assessment report was published in English and Russian on the EUWI+ website, summarising all project activities on technical support for laboratory accreditation and recommendations for further action.

On 24 February 2021, CRICUWR in cooperation with the OECD held an expert workshop on an irrigation study in pilot rayons of Gomel oblast with the participation of experts from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Ministry of Agriculture, Gomel Committee of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, executive bodies of the pilot rayons, NGOs and other water stakeholders. On 30 March, CRICUWR submitted a report to the OECD on the public consultation process organised to discuss results of the pilot study in Gomel oblast (Pripjat river basin).

On 26 February 2021 UBA endorsed the draft report of the first investigative monitoring survey in the Dnieper basin prepared by CRICUWR. Draft reports “Surface water monitoring development plan for Belarus: Biological monitoring” and “Groundwater monitoring development plan for Belarus” were prepared, to support the implementation of WFD compliant monitoring in the Republic of Belarus.

Abstracts for the presentation of two posters at the EGU General Assembly 2021 (19-30 April 2021) were accepted by the assembly organisers. The two posters present highlights elaborated during EUWI+ (transboundary activity with Ukraine, proposed methodology for status assessment). An abstract for a presentation at the ISARM2021 conference on transboundary aquifers (December 2021) was submitted.

During Quarter 1, a number of important equipment deliveries were registered and received. This included microwave systems delivered to the Gomel laboratory of the Republican Centre for Analytical Control, Central Laboratory (Minsk) and the Research and Production Center for Geology in Minsk as well as hydrobiological monitoring equipment delivered to Belgidromet. This equipment will improve the monitoring and analytical capabilities of these entities and expert training will follow in quarter 2.

[An online interactive dashboard](#) was developed for water body status visualisation and the configuration of a virtual machine on the server purchased by EUWI+ and located at CRICUWR level was achieved.

The Central Research Institute for Complex Use of the Water Resources (CRICUWR) completed the project “Strengthening of public communication and awareness in the Dnieper and Pripjat river basins in Belarus”. The CRICUWR also submitted the reports on consultations with stakeholders at national level and river basin level as well as on communication actions held in 2020. This was published on the [EUWI+ website](#).

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus informed that the Agreement between the Governments of Belarus and Poland on cooperation in the field of protection and rational use of transboundary waters, signed in Bialowieza on 7 February 2020, entered into force on November 26 2020.

The latest Belarus [newsletter \(June 2019-December 2020\)](#) was published. The [story of a UNECE expert on Strategic Environmental Assessment \(SEA\) for the National Water Strategy](#) was published as part of the EUWI+ expert stories series. On occasion of the EUWI+ campaign for World Water Day, the [video “Springs of Belarus”](#) was disseminated through the EUWI+ Facebook account.

# Quarter 2 Look ahead

Priorities for Quarter 2 2021 in Belarus include:

- The Ministry of Health Protection of the Republic of Belarus will hold an International Scientific and Practical Conference on the Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses of International Lakes on 22 April 2021 in Minsk.
- The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus plans to hold the 1st International Specialized Environmental Exhibition-Forum “Ecology Expo-2021” and the XVI Republican Environmental Forum on 3-4 June 2021 in Minsk. The International Water Forum “Springs of Belarus” will be part of the Republican Environmental Forum and will also be held on 3-4 June 2021 in Minsk.
- The next meeting of the Dnieper basin council is notionally planned for 30 April 2021 in Mogilev city.
- Field surveys on the study assessing the use of surface water bodies for the purpose of irrigation in the Gomel oblast (notionally planned for 6-9 April).
- Preparation of display material and presentation of the two PICO presentations at the virtual EGU General Assembly 2021 (26 April 2021, 13:39 and 27 April 15:55).
- Acceptance of the presentation at the ISARM2021 conference organised by UNESCO.
- The report “Surface water monitoring development plan for Belarus: Biological monitoring” will be finalised, translated and published.
- The report “Groundwater monitoring development plan for Belarus” will be finalised, translated and published.
- Upload of the finalised report “Investigative monitoring – surface water survey capacity building in Belarus”.
- Installation and training of the microwave systems delivered to the Gomel laboratory of RCAC and the RPCG lab in Minsk.
- Equipment for groundwater sampling will be delivered to Belarus.
- A national guidance dedicated to stakeholder consultation will be finalised.
- Start of transfer of data management tools/platform on the virtual machine into the server purchased by EUWI+ and located at CRICUWR level.