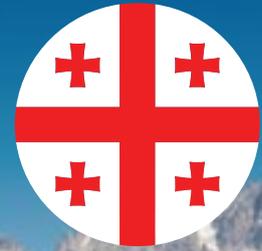


# Georgia

## Quarter 1 Highlights



The pilot project on Application of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the draft Alazani-lori River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) was successfully finalised and [the report](#) submitted to MEPA. A positive feedback was received from the Ministry. The preparation of the RBMP SEA Guidelines will be based on the experience and lessons learned through carrying out a pilot SEA for the draft Alazani-lori River Basin Management Plan (RBMP). The Guidelines can be used as a reference to develop future SEAs for RBMPs.

The reports on consultations held in Summer-Autumn 2020 on the RBMP programme of measures were published on the EUWI+ website, for both [Alazani-lori](#) and [Khrami-Debed](#) pilot river basins.

In order to support MEPA in facilitating economic reforms, in particular to introduce water abstraction charges in Georgia, envisaged by new draft Law on Water Resources Management, work was continued under Result 1, led by OECD. On 26 February 2021 an online meeting on “strengthening an economic dimension of the water resources management reform of Georgia” was held. The meeting with participation of key stakeholders and departments of MEPA was carried out as a roundtable discussion chaired by Nino Tandilashvili, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia. The aim of the meeting was the discussion of findings of the project including proposed scenarios for water abstraction reforms and their potential impacts. Based on results of the meeting and suggestions of MEPA the final draft report on Facilitating Water Abstraction Charges is already developed.

Online meetings were held throughout the reporting period to assist the finalisation of the Chorokhi-Ajaristkali Coastal RBMP. The meetings discussed outcomes of the study, particularly the economic analysis and ecological monitoring results, Programme of Measures (PoMs) and prioritisation of these measures. The updated version of the draft Coastal RBMP will be submitted to the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, and other beneficiaries, including Ajarian Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, NEA Batumi branch, municipal governments of the coastal area and other basin stakeholders in mid-April, before discussing these results at the Basin Consultation meeting, tentatively planned for the end of April 2021.

Communication activities focussed in particular on the Coastal RBMP Planning and installation of SW and GW automated monitoring stations in the pilot basins, where

EUWI+ experts were accompanied by representatives of the NEA Public Relations service and the relevant sectoral departments. The news on these activities were published in national media.

On occasion of World Water Day, the [video on Khrami-Debed River Basin Management Plan](#) has been disseminated through EUWI+ Facebook.

The report of the groundwater survey 2020 was finalised.

Work continued on the report “Investigative monitoring – surface water survey capacity building in Georgia”.

The draft reports “Surface water monitoring development plan for Georgia: Biological monitoring” and “Groundwater monitoring development plan for Georgia” were prepared to support the process of introducing WFD compliant monitoring in Georgia.

The project completed the procurement of an ICP-MS 2030 - Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometer, intended for high performance analysis of heavy metals in water. The equipment will be delivered to NEA Laboratory from the manufacturer Shimadzu in April-May 2021.

The installation of twelve fully automated Hydrological monitoring stations was completed in the Alazani-lori and Khrami-Debeda pilot basin districts. The project representative and NEA technical team conducted site inspections at each location to check installation and operability of the stations in February 2021.

Installation of seven fully automated groundwater monitoring stations was completed in the Alazani-lori pilot basin district (Alazani aquifer). The project representative, NEA groundwater technical team and the contractor conducted site inspections to check installation and operability of the stations in March 2021.

With regard to data management, an [online interactive dashboard](#) was developed for water body status visualisation. The configuration of a virtual machine on the server that was reinforced with EUWI financing at EIEC level was completed.

In February 2021, a pre-audit assessment report was compiled and published both in English and Russian language on the EUWI+ website summarizing all project activities on technical support for laboratory accreditation for the Environmental Pollution Monitoring Department of the National Environmental Agency (NEA) and recommendations for further need of action.

# Quarter 2 Look ahead

Priorities for Quarter 2 2021 in Georgia include:

- A Public Consultation meeting to discuss outcomes of the Chorokhi-Ajaristskali Coastal RBMP development (notably its coastal issues), in Batumi, Ajara is scheduled to take place in late April or beginning of May 2021.
- The finalisation of a toolkit on best practices for communication and public consultation in River Basin Management Plans is on-going.
- The report “Surface water monitoring development plan for Georgia: Biological monitoring” as well as “Groundwater monitoring development plan for Georgia” will be finalised, translated and published.
- The report on “Investigative monitoring – surface water survey capacity building in Georgia” will be finalised and published.
- The report “Results of the Ecological monitoring in transitional and coastal water bodies from Sarpi to Kobuleti” will also be finished.
- Delivery and installation of an Induced Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometer (ICP-MS) for NEA laboratory is expected in April 2021.
- The delivery of laboratory consumables is scheduled for June 2021.
- The Steering Committee meeting of the National Policy Dialogue (NPD) on Integrated Water Resources Management, combined with the project communication and results presentation, involving beneficiaries (MEPA, NEA), international partners, EUD-Georgia, water related projects, EUWI+ staff is proposed to take place in May 2021.
- The transfer of data management tools/platform on the virtual machine on the server that was reinforced with EUWI financing at EIEC level, will be started.