

Regional Quarter 1 Highlights

From 18-21 January 2021, the high-level event “Water and Beyond”, hosted by the European Commission Directorate-General for International Partnerships and the Government of Slovenia with support of the Government of Portugal, took place. The event provided insights on how to strengthen transboundary cooperation, build broader partnerships and trigger water investments in support of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement. [All EUWI+ partners participated](#) and the EUWI+ experience was presented, including from Moldova, where Mr. Ion Salaru, Deputy Director of the National Agency for Public Health, highlighted that water is key for public health and the environment, specifically in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. He presented examples of support by EUWI+, citing the recent adoption of the revised Water and Sanitation Strategy and the work on the National Programme for the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health. Ms. Iryna Stavchuk, Deputy Minister of MENR of Ukraine, also highlighted the importance of the RMB planning in line with the WFD in her address at the event.

On 26 February 2021, the fifth meeting of the global network of river basins working on climate change adaptation, was jointly organised by UNECE and INBO. EUWI+ project basins shared their experience during this virtual meeting. More information: <https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/fifth-meeting-global-network-basins-working-climate-change-adaptation>.

On 23 March, [an online UN General Assembly High-level meeting](#) on the implementation of the water-related goals and targets of the 2030 agenda took place. The Minister for Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of Republic of Moldova, Mr. Perju, underlined that “the integration of sustainable development objectives into strategic documents is an ongoing process. In this regard, he mentioned Moldova’s approval of changes to the Water Supply and Sanitation Strategy - the important steps taken towards integrated water resources management.”

The risk analysis conducted for the 6,000 water bodies from the EUWI+ supported RBMPs has been gathered in one [visualisation tool available at the EUWI+ website](#).

A new video about EUWI+ has been published during the 2021 World Water Day, following a series of publications for each EaP country, highlighting the main achievements for water management. The video is available with subtitles for each EaP country at [EUWI+ Youtube channel](#).

Quarter 2 Look ahead

Looking ahead to the second quarter of 2021, two large regional events are already under discussion:

- An online meeting on the finalisation of the draft Guidance Document on the Armenian-Georgian Joint Transboundary Water Quality Monitoring Program in the Ktsia/Khrami-Debed River Basins planned for April 2021. EUWI+ work with support of UNECE (under R1) has continued on the proposed bilateral cooperation at the technical level between the National Environmental Agency of Georgia (NEA) and the Hydrometeorology and Monitoring Centre (MHS) of Armenia in the Khrami-Debed/Debeda basin. In support, UNECE and UBA experts and the EUWI+ country representatives of Georgia and Armenia have finalised the second draft Guidance Document on the Joint River Monitoring Procedures for this Joint Transboundary Monitoring Program of Water Quality in Ktsia/Khrami-Debed River Basin”.
- The 6th International Water Forum “Springs of Belarus” is planned for June 2021.
- The next EUWI+ regional Steering Committee Meeting with dates under discussion.
- The guidance document on the identification, delineation and characterisation of groundwater bodies according to the requirements of the WFD will be finalised.
- Participation at the final meeting of the EMBLAS Plus Project and opening of the inception phase of the new Black Sea project: European Union for Improving Environmental Monitoring in the Black Sea - EU4EMBLAS.