

11th Roundtable on Financing Water: regional meeting on the EU's Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries

DRAFT AGENDA

Day 1 (30 May 2024) – Full day

Session	Description	Background Documents
Opening session (9:00 – 10:00)	Setting the scene: High-level remarks about regional pressures, EU approximation, and water financing demands for EaP countries. Link with the EU context: lessons from the EU green week “Towards a water-resilient Europe”.	
Session 1 (10:00 – 11:00)	Financing the EU Water Acquis: Sharing EU Member States’ experience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenges and opportunities for financing the EU water-related Directives at basin, regional, and national levels. The financing gap and key lessons learned for application in EaP countries. 	<i>OECD (2020), Financing Water Supply, Sanitation and Flood Protection: Challenges in EU Member States and Policy Options</i> <i>Four Working Papers on the Economic Aspects of Implementing the EU Water Framework and Floods Directives¹ (official launch?)</i> <i>Highlights of analysis on demand for and availability of finance to fund improvements in water security in EaP countries</i>
Session 2 (11:30 – 13:00)	Lessons learned from assessing the enabling environment for investment in water security in EaP countries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional challenges and common opportunities. Bridging the gap – how to improve the enabling environment - country examples. 	<i>Highlights of the review of the enabling environment for investment in water security in EaP countries.</i>
Lunch (13:00 – 14:30)		
Session 3 (14:30-15:30)	Towards a financially sustainable water sector: application and reform of economic instruments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Results from EaP country analysis (tariffs and subsidies, including abstraction and pollution charges). EU experience and lessons learned on cost recovery and application of economic instruments. 	<i>Highlights of analysis on the reform of instruments to mobilise domestic finance for water in the EaP countries.</i> <i>Four Working Papers on the Economic Aspects of Implementing the EU Water Framework and Floods Directives</i>
Session 4 (16:00 – 17:30)	Accessing finance for improving sustainable water management : availability, challenges, and innovative solutions for EaP countries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Findings of a study on the availability of finance from IFIs and bilateral donors 	<i>Highlights of analysis on demand for and availability of finance to fund improvements in water security in EaP countries</i>

¹ Water investment planning and financing; The implementation of the Polluter Pays Principle; The economics of water scarcity; Cost recovery.

- Case studies of innovative financing solutions in EU and EaP countries.

Networking cocktail (18:00 – 19:00)

Day 2 (31 May 2024) – Half day

Session	Description	Background Documents
Side event 1: TBC (08:15 – 09:15)		
Highlights of Day 1 (9:30 – 9:45)		
Session 5 (9:45 – 11:00)	Financing River Basin Management Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Current level of implementation in EaP countries, common challenges and opportunities○ EU experience in operationalising River Basin Management Planning and sustainable financing strategies for implementation.○ Lessons learned from financing the management of transboundary river basins.	
Session 6 (11:30 – 12:30)	From grey to green – adapting and financing novel approaches to water management in EaP countries <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Financing challenges to comply with the EU Acquis – discussion to include financing the EU Green Deal, the EU work on water resilience, and the EU Water Reuse Regulation.○ Innovative solutions: experience with incorporation and the scale-up of cost-effective Nature-based Solutions in river basin management.○ Biodiversity and water management.	<i>Analysis of cost-effective Nature-based Solutions in the water sector in EaP countries.</i>
Closing session (12:30 – 13:00)	High-level concluding remarks and key messages for future work.	