



EUROPE-INBO 2021

Session 4 “International cooperation & basin management”

**European Union Water Initiative Plus for the Eastern Partnership
(EUWI+)**

Challenges and Results

Alexander Zinke, Environment Agency Austria, 10 December 2021





The biggest commitment of the EU to the water sector in Eastern Partnership Countries



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24 M € budget – 5 years – 4 partners

Objective: *support partner countries in bringing their national policies and strategies into line with **EU Water Framework Directive** and other multilateral environmental agreements.*

- *Result 1:* Policy reforms; UNECE, OECD
- *Result 2:* WFD Monitoring & RBMPs: EAA and OiEau
- *Result 3:* communication: OiEau
- 6 countries: 25 Beneficiary Institutions (Ministries with Focal Points, water agencies...)



6 countries:

1 M km² (30.000 - 600.000 km²)

75 M inhabitants (2,6 M – 44 M)

46% in pilot basins: 2300 km² - 300.000 km²

Eastern Partnership of EU

EU Association Agreement: GE, MD, UA

CEPA agreement: AM

AZ, BY

PROGRESS AND RESULTS

1. LEGISLATION POLICY & INSTITUTION STRENGTHENING

NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE

- Annual **platform** involving high-level reps from ministries, agencies, water users, NGOs intl. projects
- Approaching the EU Water Acquis

LEGISLATIVE REFORM

- **Water laws, water strategies**, secondary legislation etc.
- implementation **roadmap** / national water action plan completed and submitted for adoption
- new AM/GE cooperation / agreement on water monitoring;

MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

- National targets for UN Protocol on Water and Health (equitable access to water and sanitation)
- Reporting under the **Water Convention** and SDG 6.5.2
- Introduction of the Strategic Environmental Assessment as a policy tool

CAPACITY BUILDING

- Development of updated water quality standards for Lake Sevan River Basin district
- Application of economic instruments
- Participation at ICPDR Expert Groups meetings; Webinar on Covid-19 monitoring in wastewater

Challenge: political instability and individual interests

2. UPGRADING LABORATORIES

Aim: increased capacity, competence & QM in chemical analytics

- **Assessment and plans for capacity building**
- **All national laboratories:** QM Trainings & QM documentation, Study Visit to AT, remote audits
- **AM, AZ, GE, UA:** renovation and technical **upgrading of lab** premises (high-tech equipment):
4 opening events in 2019-2021
- **BY:** high-tech equipment, lab building renovation
- **MD:** high-tech equipment; Support for lab **re-accreditation**, achieved in March 2021
- **AM, AZ, MD, UA:** Support for lab accreditation; **BY, GE:** training for accredited labs

OUTLOOK


- Still capacity needs in staff, budgets, monitoring network, analysis



3. SURFACE WATER

Aim: introduce WFD-compliant monitoring (focus: **biology**)

Assessment reports

- 
- **Trainings & Workshops** (14 incl. videos),
 - **National workshops** (50 missions)
 - **Water body delineation** and **typology**
 - Development of type-specific **ecological classification systems**
 - **Equipment** for sampling and analysis
 - 18 **Surveys** in pilot areas
 - 14 **guidances & manuals**
 - **Investigative Monitoring** exercise
 - **Transboundary Survey** on Debed river UNECE (AM & GE)
 - New **hydrological monitoring stations** (AM: 6, GE: 12)
 - Input to ICPDR **Joint Danube Survey 4** (MD)
 - **Pollutant Screening** of Dnipro basin for 65,000 substances (UA)

Monitoring Development Plan (new status and further needs).

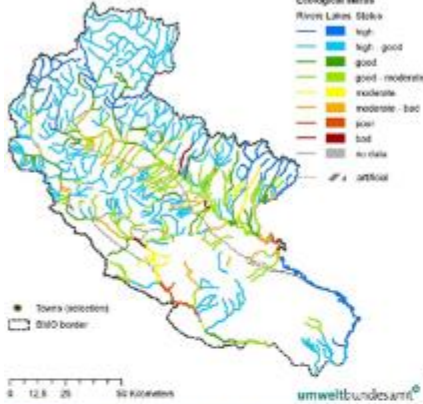
Outlook: extend capacity, budget, ownership



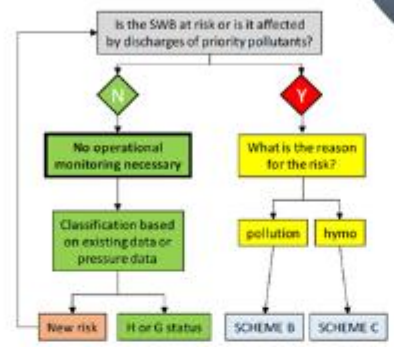


Action funded by the EUROPEAN UNION

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Scheme A



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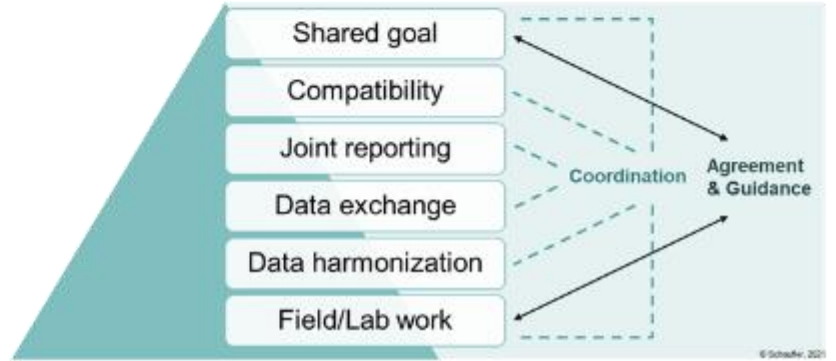
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COMPONENTS OF TRANSBOUNDARY MONITORING



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3.1 COASTAL & TRANSITIONAL WATER

- GE:** 8 trainings and manuals, new **sampling equipment**,
water body delineation;
3 biological surveys at Chorokhi;
extended RBMP of Chorokhi-Ajaristskali basin
– Coastal & Transitional Waters (*Black Sea*).
- AZ:** 5 trainings, new **sampling equipment**,
water body delineation (*Caspian Sea*);
1 survey on salinisation of the upper Kura Delta;
Pressure & Impact Study of the lower Kura & Delta.



4. GROUNDWATER

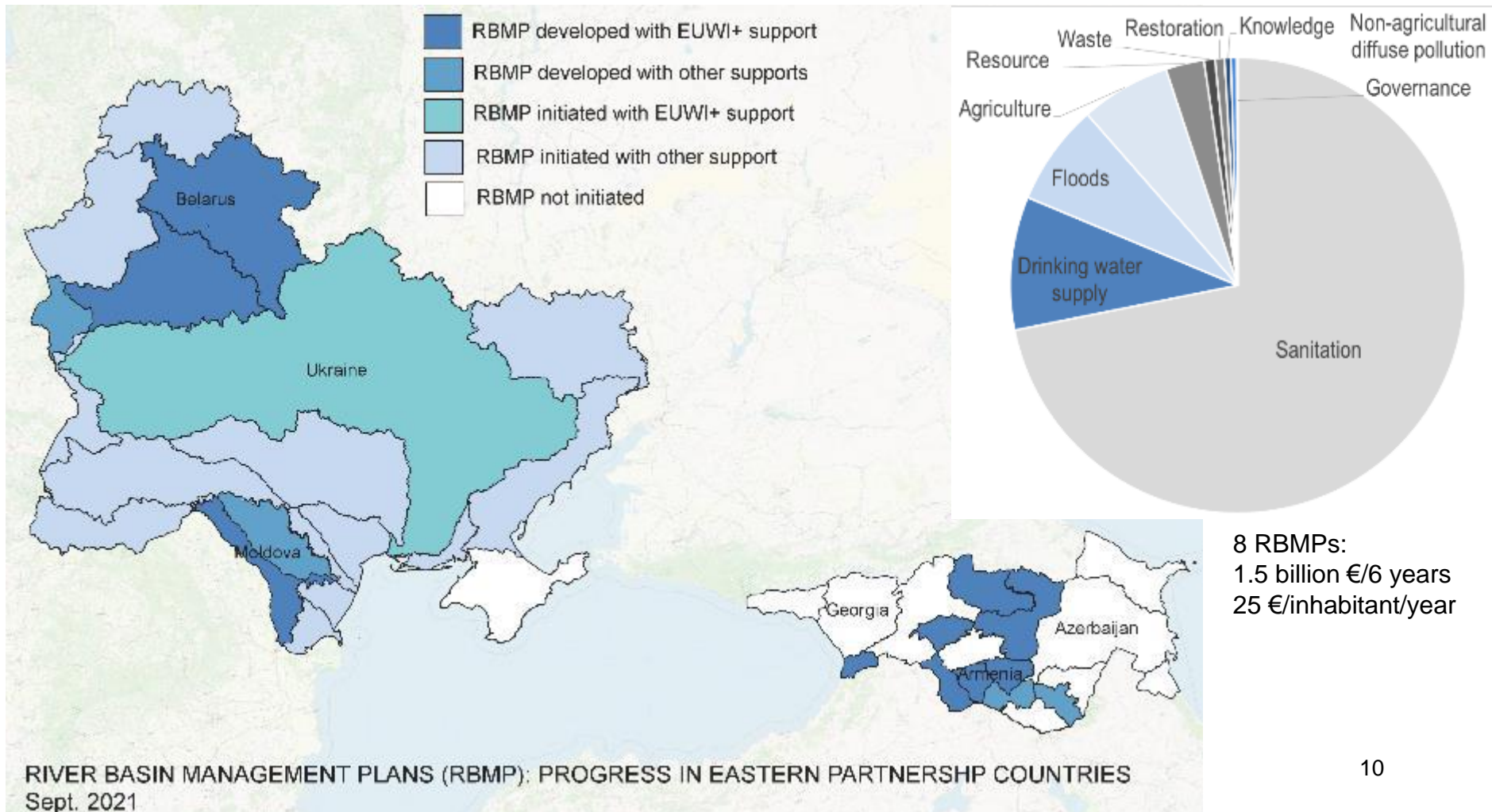
AIM: upgrade GW monitoring (quality, WFD compliance).

- Delineation and characterisation of 117 GWB (42 transboundary), bilateral cooperation.
- Monitoring network: 22 new and 13 repaired stations.
- Sampling: 6 trainings and new equipment.
- 15 monitoring campaigns (325 points) with more parameter.
- Initial risk and status assessment

Challenges: lack of expert staff, operational budget, equipment and QA



5. RB MANAGEMENT PLANS & PROGR. OF MEASURES





PARTICIPATIVE RBMP PLANING

- **3** existing RBMPs **improved** and endorsed; **8 new RBMPs completed**
- Total catchments: ca. **480.000 km²** with ca. **32 M inhab**
- 92 local experts
- Over 60 stakeholder consultation meetings, basin councils and workshops

Outlook:

- RBMP endorsement and implementation in all 6 countries
- Participative basin governance

6. COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY - HIGHLIGHTS

• EU support to the water sector made visible



- Webpage, Facebook, cartoons & videos (results; interviews), leaflets, newsletters
- 54 outreach events;
- 2 social media campaigns (World Env Day), 104,000 people reached in 2021
- 300 news and press releases, 45 factsheets & infographics also in local languages

• Awareness raising on water issues increased in the 6 countries

- educational activities, manuals for schoolchildren, Water / EU / Danube / Dnipro Days, campaign on water saving, cycling around the Prut, Clean Beach Day





EUWI+ WEBSITE AND SOCIAL NETWORKS

EUWI+ **website**: 20,000 visitors in July 2021

<https://www.euwipluseast.eu/en/>



EUWI+ **FaceBook** page: 867 followers

<https://www.facebook.com/euwiplus/>



EUWI+ **YT Channel** seit Sept 2020: >40 videos, 4,400 views

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjK1x3nUpleeG55JPd_nPAw

Final video: [The European Union supports healthy waters in the Eastern Partnership countries - YouTube](#)



FaceBook Group The Dnipro Unites

https://www.facebook.com/groups/Dniprounites/?ref=br_rs

Дніпро єднає! / The Dnipro unites!

Public group · 684 members

FaceBook Group Clean Rivers for a Healthy Future

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/764028737267175/>

Clean Rivers for a Healthy Future - Caucasus

Public group · 127 members



9. FUTURE

Good progress (>600 products) – visible WFD footprint – commitment

New EU Action:

EU4Environment Water & Data 2022-2024 for 2.5 years, 12,75 M €

- *Component 1*: sustaining EUWI+ investments and reforms
 - On top: economic instruments; targeted donor cooperation for RBMP implementation (Nature-based Solutions), SARS-CoV-2 surveillance
- *Component 2*: building up on SEIS II
 - water accounting, data on land use, waste and air pollution management

Same partnership + ADA