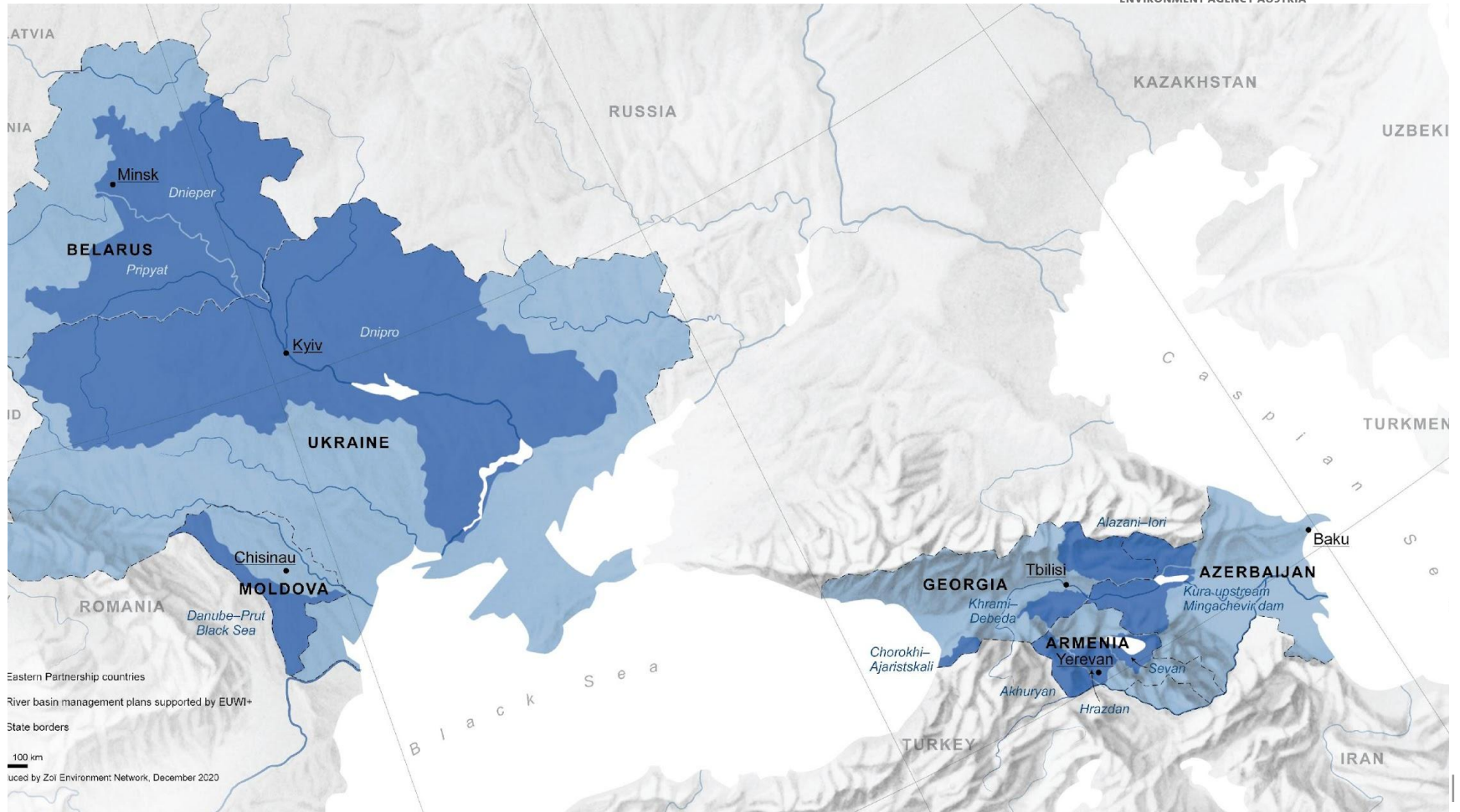


Europe-INBO 2022 Annecy, FR

Session 3 "Good ecological status, Governance of the WFD, water cycle at basin level" 28 Sept. 2022

Challenges of WFD implementation in the European Union Eastern Partner countries

Alexander Zinke, Coordinator Water & Environment, Environment Agency Austria



SPECIFIC EU SUPPORT ON WFD IMPLEMENTATION

EU Eastern Partner Countries:

Armenia, Azerbaijan, (Belarus)

Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine

Consortium of

- Environment Agency Austria
- International Office for Water/FR
- UNECE
- OECD

- **EU Water Initiative Plus** (2016-2021)

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

Policy, capacity building (laboratories), 11 RBMPs

- **EU4Environment – Water Resources and Environmental Data** (2022-2024)

- <http://www.eu4waterdata.eu/> (from mid Oct. 2022!)

follow-up, econ. instruments, 2 more RBMPs...

EU4Environment
Water and Data in Eastern Partner Countries

COUNTRY CHALLENGES

WFD standard and IWRM are clear goals

- Inherited water governance: system and infrastructure
 - Monitoring of hydrology and chemistry
 - Major gaps of data / knowledge
 - Many deteriorated water bodies but also very intact river areas (ref sites)
 - Non-sustainable use
- Countries in political and economic transition
- Loads of external support – limits of uptake capacity
- Inconsistent modernising of water policies and management
- Political and bureaucratic risks
- Low budget and own income
- High dynamics in man-power and institutions
- Undermined responsibilities (control, accounting, enforcement)



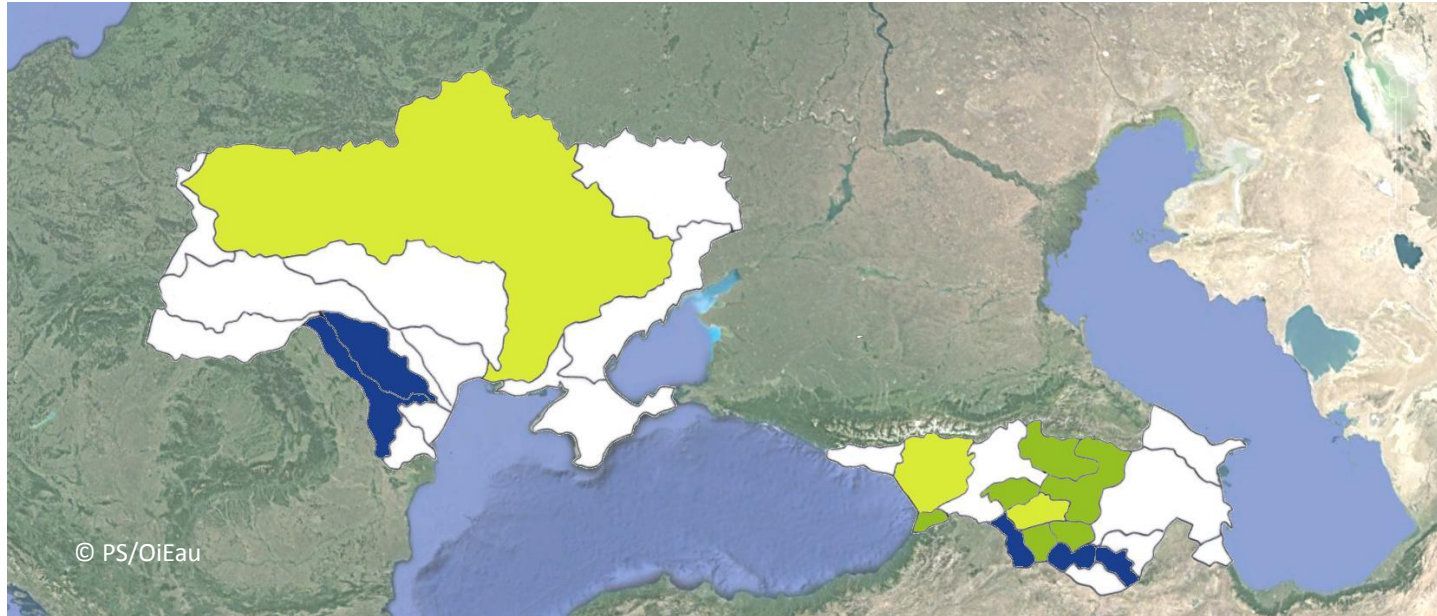
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umweltbundesamt^U
ENVIRONMENT AGENCY AUSTRIA

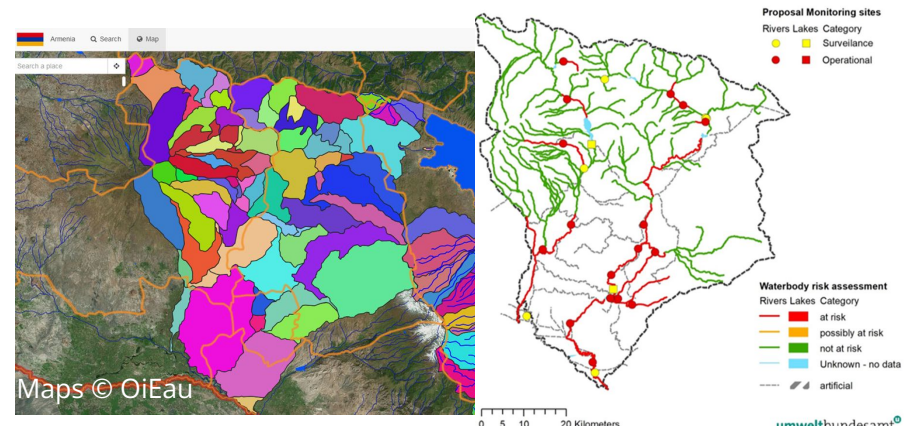


-  River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) already adopted
-  RBMPs completed during EUWI+ and waiting for adoption
-  RBMPs to be completed during EU4Environment before adoption
-  Other EaP river basins

**-> Next step:
Implementation**

GOOD NEWS AND OUTLOOK

- Clear progress in policies and implementation
 - Reaction on global -> local environment crises
 - EU approximation and donor support fuel progress
 - More sustained and coordinated external support
 - Improved capacities, tools and database
 - Growing ownership and commitment
 - Better decision-making
 - More evidence and transparency
 - Growing awareness and stakeholder involvement
 - Economic interests / market rules
- Need of further support
 - Need of patience and confidence
 - New job profiles emerging
 - Emerging education programs
 - Innovation spirit
 - Natural realities affect the reform speed



CONTACT & INFORMATION

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Moldova, Field Survey, June 2019 © EUWI+