



National Policy Dialogues: support to the water and health agenda

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Working Group on Water and Health

Geneva, 16-17 April 2024

Protocol on Water and Health



#ProtocolWaterHealth

Overview – National Policy Dialogues

- **National Policy Dialogues** on Integrated Water Resources Management and Water Supply and Sanitation (NPDs) - intersectoral multistakeholder platforms to drive water policy reforms
- National Policy Dialogues started in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia **since 2006**, under the EU Water Initiative (EUWI) and facilitated jointly by UNECE and OECD,
- NPDs currently ongoing in **10 countries**, including **5 in Central Asia**
- High-level **intersectoral Steering Committee** meetings provide platform for discussions on key aspects of water policy reforms
- **Diverse stakeholders**: all relevant government entities, NGOs, academia, donor agencies, IFIs, local and basin authorities, etc.
- **Funded and supported by**: European Union, Finland, Switzerland, Romania, Norway and by partners (WB, SDC, OSCE, CAREC, IFAS bodies, UNDP, UNESCO,...)



Support to the Water and Health agenda through NPDs

Promotion of the implementation of **water and health goals, with emphasis on COVID-19** challenges & international commitments and capacity building

Armenia:

- Support for accession to the Protocol on Water and Health (workshop organised by the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum – 25 October 2023)
- Development of a roadmap for implementation of the EU Drinking Water Directive under CEPA

Azerbaijan:

- Assistance with revision of national targets under the Protocol on Water and Health (in view of COVID-19)
- Pilot project on identification of alternative water sources under changing climate

Georgia:

- Working Group on Water and Health – benefits of accession to the Protocol on Water and Health and support for accession
- Assessing the equity of access to water and sanitation in line with EU requirements

Republic of Moldova:

- Assessing implementation of the National Programme on the PWH for 2016-2025 and recommendations for future

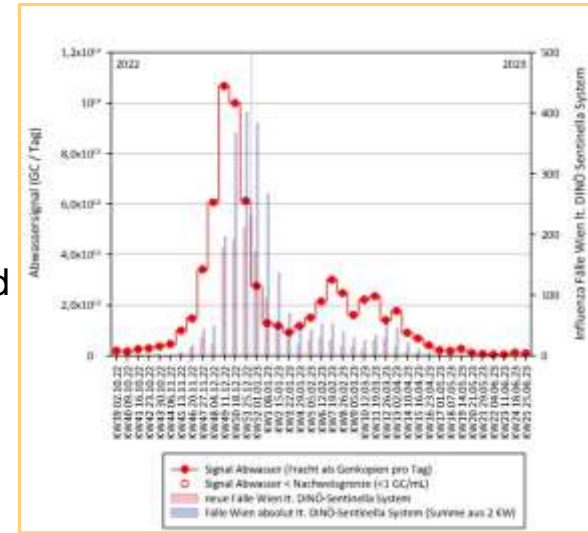
Ukraine:

- Adoption of the PWH targets in the National Water Strategy until 2050

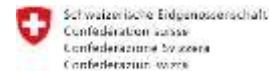


Wastewater based Epidemiology Monitoring

- Promoting implementation of a Wastewater-based Epidemiology Monitoring (SARS-CoV 2 et al.) in AM, AZ, GE, MD, UA
- Leadership and coordination is key and requires an institutional framing, including a sustainable budget
- High-level online conference with EC and EaP (Dep.) Ministers on institutionalizing WBE on 3 July 2023
- Parallel session of WBE at 7th Ministerial Conference Environment and Health, WHO, Budapest, July 2023
- Continuous data produced in GE, MD, UA
- „Water and Health“ in Georgia (5/24-4/27)
 - Better capacity to monitor, analyse and regulate water quality and quantity
 - Efficiency of the healthcare system reinforced in tackling environmental health issues



Support for PWH implementation in Uzbekistan

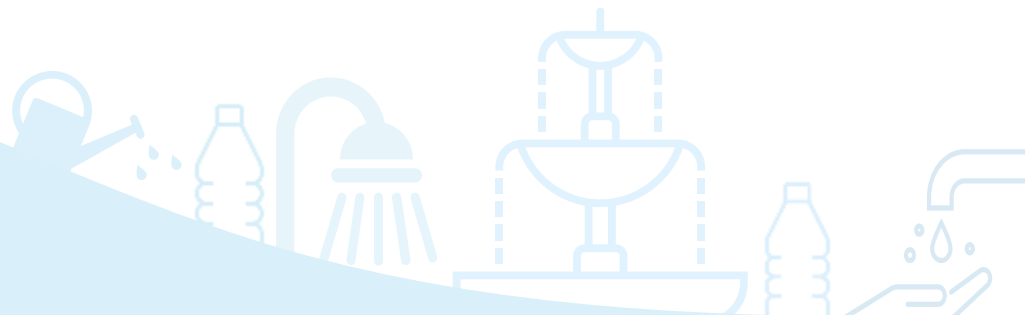


Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC
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Tasks for 2024-2025, within a recently launched SDC-funded project to support PWH implementation in Uzbekistan:

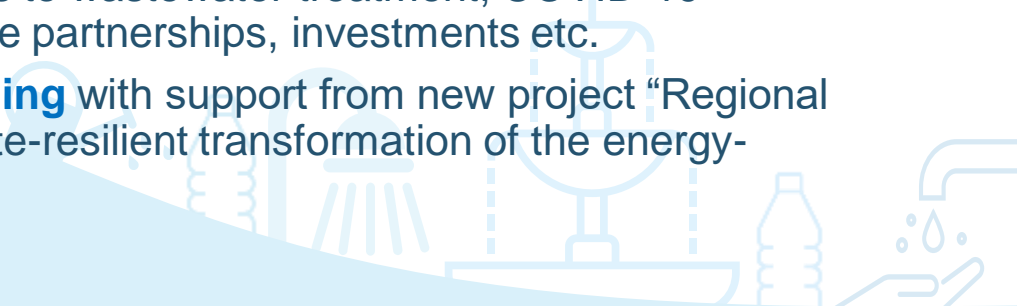
- to develop a national standard for wastewater treatment
- to revise the classification of the quality of natural water bodies

Implemented with authorities, science, NGOs and IFIs



Lessons learned and prospects

- Strong link between **water and health** agenda
- Continuous interest and support need from countries in **Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia**
- Need to maintain strong **ownership** by countries of NPDs and **monitor implementation**
- Engagement with **national and local counterparts** - key to sustainability of NPDs
- Interest to strengthen **innovative approaches and learn international experience** e.g nature-based solutions to wastewater treatment, COVID-19 monitoring in wastewater, public-private partnerships, investments etc.
- For NPDs in Central Asia **limited funding** with support from new project “Regional mechanisms for the low-carbon, climate-resilient transformation of the energy-water-land Nexus in Central Asia”



Thank you for your attention!



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