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10<sup>th</sup> session  
Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention  
23-25 OCTOBER 2024 | LJUBLJANA | SLOVENIA

# Results of Water Management Innovation in the Eastern Partnership Countries leading up to the Water Convention MOP10

Ljubljana | 22 October 2024, 15:00-18:00

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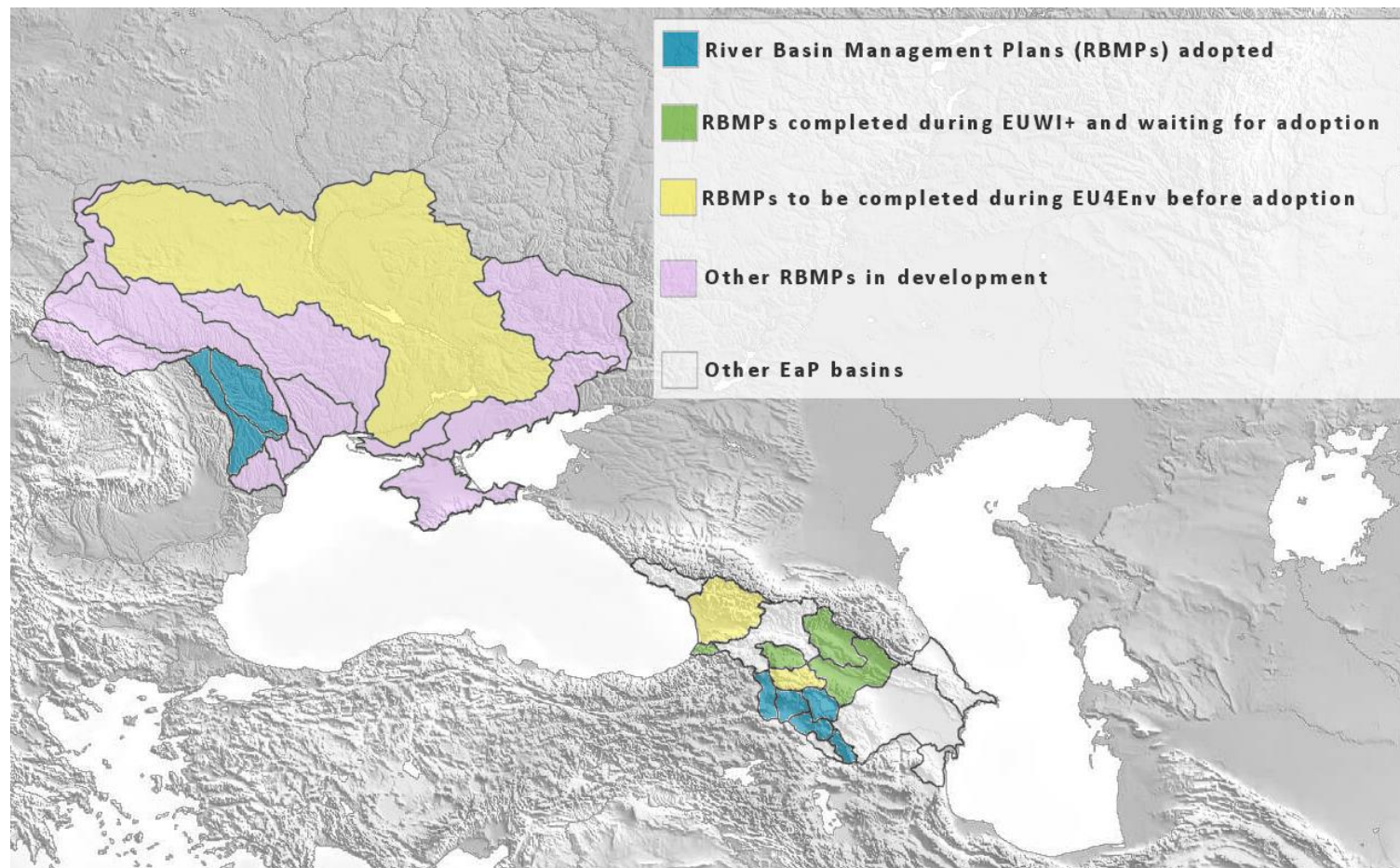




## RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLANNING – AN INCLUSIVE PROCESS

EU4WD, building up on EUWI+ has led to significant progresses in development of RBMPs

- ✓ Clarification of River Basin Districts
- ✓ Increase of Basins covered by a RBMP
- ✓ Capacity building
- ✓ Fine-tuned to each country specificities (methodologies, legal...)
- ✓ Adoption process still at various stages
- ✓ Implementation of RBMPs remains a challenge







## RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLANNING – AN INCLUSIVE PROCESS (2)

A focus on Stakeholders involvement and citizen awareness to support planning

- ✓ Stakeholders engagement is now integrated in the "usual" process
- ✓ Ad-hoc communication and awareness raising products
- ✓ Bringing up the basin level in the scope
- ✓ Capacity building
- ✓ Basin level "governance" still to be improved



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## GATHERING AND ANALYSING FACTS FOR EVIDENCE-BASED POLICIES AND INVESTMENTS

Good sampling and exact analysis is pre-condition for *knowledge* on

- *real* status of ALL waters
- needed and *effective* measures

EU4WD was **building up on EUWI+ capacity building** (laboratory infrastructure, investment in infrastructure (labs, analytical and sampling equipment), staff trainings, pilot surveys (ground, surface & coastal waters) , secondary legislation, guidance documents, Standard Operating Procedures and monitoring development plans)

- ✓ Clear upgrade of all 5 national reference labs
- ✓ Step-wise approach towards compliance with EU Water Framework Directive



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# MONITORING OF SURFACE, GROUND- AND COASTAL WATERS

## Trainings on

- Data **interpretation** of analytical results (groundwater and surface water) for possible follow-up action
- WFD status assessment (groundwater)
- WFD Biological Quality Elements (benthic invertebrates & phytobenthos - species taxonomy).

## Surveys

- 2 GW surveys in the Northern RBD (AM) for the new RBMP-related monitoring network
- Surveys in Rioni and Enguri RBD (GE) for the new RBMP-related monitoring network
- 1 survey in Danube-Prut and Black Sea RBD (MD) to expand data basis
- First *joint* surface water and groundwater survey in Prut RB (MD) to check inter-linkages

## Transboundary Monitoring

- AM-GE surface and groundwater survey in Khrami-Debed(a) RBD
- AZ-GE surface water survey in Alazani/Ganikh RBD
- Joint comparison of parallel sampled and analysed values -> harmonisation
- Technical guidance as Annex of NEW Transboundary Monitoring Agreement in Khrami-Debed(a) River Basin (AM-GE)



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## WATER LABORATORIES: SUPPORT TO ACCREDITATION

**Capacity building** (incl audits, QM docs) of each laboratory for **accreditation** of new ISO 17025 (2017) standard

- Vyshgorod (**UA**) in January 2024 for large group of par.
- HMC (**AM**) in June 2024 for nutrients, heavy metals (SW+GW)
- Labs in **GE** (NEA) and **MD** (EAM) had been accredited in 2018 resp 2021 for certain parameters (heavy metals resp.
- Lab in **AZ** (AzeLab) is prepared (to be accredited abroad)

**Participation in Proficiency Tests** to annually verify and secure the quality of analyses (via comparison to other lab elsewhere)

- on physico-chemical parameters (nutrients, heavy metals, PAH, ...): WFD-required
- on biology (MZB): WFD-required

**5 regional trainings** on inorganic and organic chemical parameters for WFD priority substances:

- Improve: heavy metals, nutrients
- NEW: organochlorine pesticides, PAH, phthalates, alkylphenols, VOC,

- ✓ **Clear upgrading of lab performances** (z-scores) achieved towards production of more valid data ("reference lab")
- ✓ Labs need more incentives (e.g. legal basis) to perform and build up experience with such complex analyses
- ✓ Accreditation requires regular analyses of *well-collected* water samples -> risk of losing certain accreditation!
- Still need of **more investment into equipment and more training & QM** to analyse all WFD priority substances
- Still need to **expand analyses to other matrices beside water: biota, sediments**



# FINANCING WATER



Improving the enabling environment for financing water at the national level to:

- Develop national strategic approaches; and
- Support access to finance from investors, international financial institutions, and development banks.



Assessing the structure and effectiveness of existing approaches to water finance



Mobilising domestic finance through reforming taxes and tariffs



Developing approaches to finance cost-effective Nature-based Solutions



## GEORGIA

- Over the last five years, **total water abstraction in Georgia has gradually decreased.**
- Surface water abstraction accounts for the vast majority of total abstraction, consistently hovering around **98% throughout the last 5 years.**
- **Hydropower** emerges as the largest sector accounting for **92% of total water** abstractions and **93% of surface water abstractions** in 2022, followed by the **irrigation sector.**
- The main consumer of groundwater is the **drinking water supply sector.**
- The number of water users has remained relatively stable over the last five years, ranging between **508 and 644 water users.**
- The highest number of water users is usually registered in the **industrial sector** (excluding hydropower production).





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# LAW OF GEORGIA ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (2023)- KEY CHANGES INTRODUCED UNDER THE LAW



1

Establishment of the river basin, their management units and management councils. Develop river basin management plans



2

Water monitoring system in accordance with EU regulations



3

Re-establishment of permit systems on surface water abstraction



4

Responsibility on environmental costs



5

Modernise water consumption metering systems



6

Define responsibilities of different entities and enhance involvement of local municipalities



7

Define surface water abstraction charges



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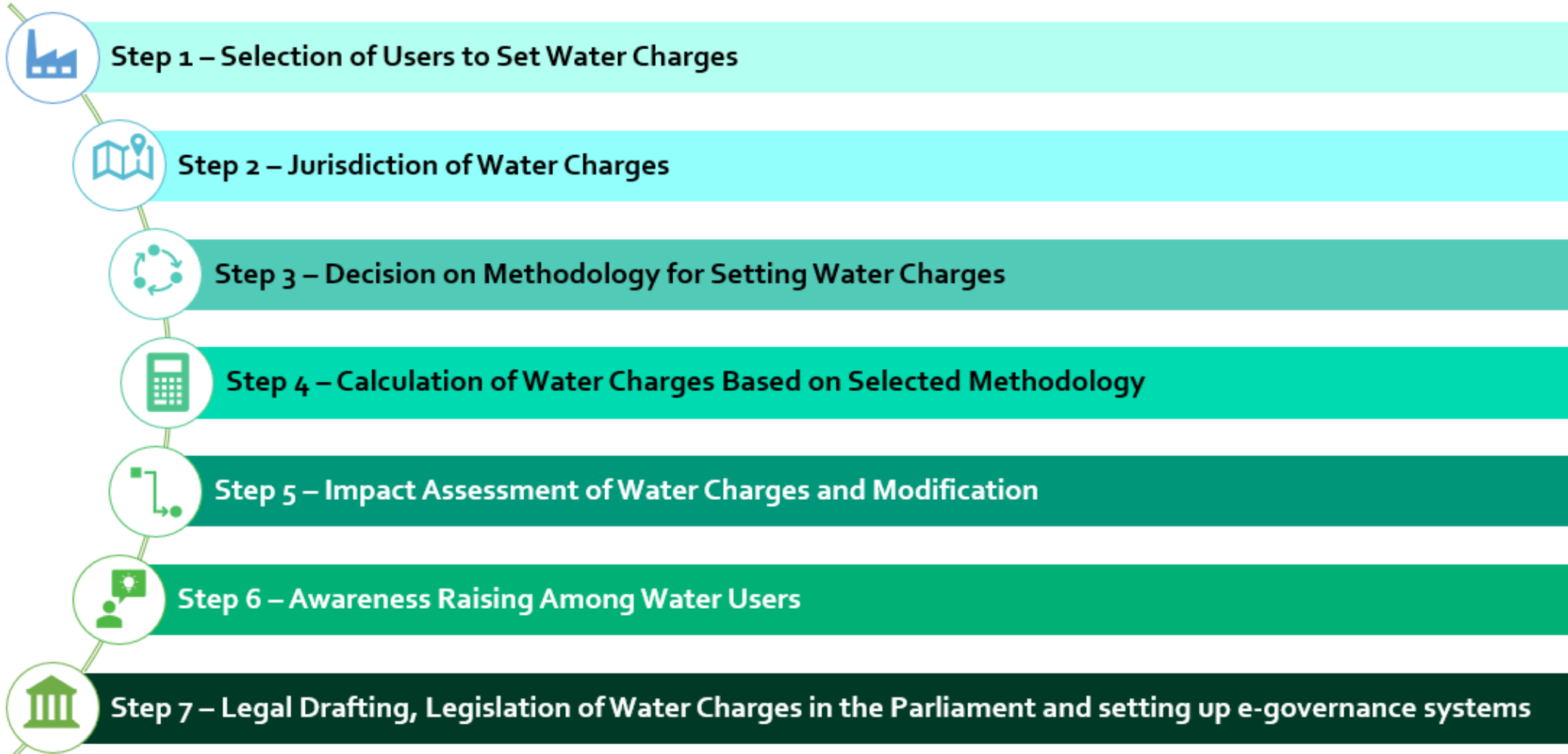
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# STEPS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF SURFACE WATER CHARGES



## ENSURING GOOD GOVERNANCE 1

Advanced high-level **legislation and institutions**

Improved **intersectoral cooperation**

**National Policy Dialogues on Water (NPDs)** - a multistakeholder platform for change, with strong political ownership, facilitated in partnership between UNECE and OECD - 10 Steering Committee meetings

- **Armenia:** Amended Water Code adopted (2022) and preparations for a new water security strategy (2023), new Decree on nitrate vulnerable zones (2024)
- **Azerbaijan:** New State Water Agency established (2023) and National Water Strategy developed and approved (2024)
- **Georgia:** National Law on Water Resources Management developed and approved (2023)
- **Moldova:** a pilot identification of illegal dams, which resulted in removal of 50+ dams (2024)
- **Ukraine:** National Water Strategy developed and adopted (2022)





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# ENSURING GOOD GOVERNANCE



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## ENSURING GOOD GOVERNANCE 2

### Improved transboundary cooperation

- Signed trilateral memorandum of cooperation on the Prut River (Moldova, Romania, Ukraine, 2023), and support to the first working group meeting (2024)
- Draft bilateral agreement on the monitoring the Khrami-Debed(a) basin (Armenia-Georgia) ready for signature
- Support to the meetings of the bilateral Dniester Commission (Moldova-Ukraine)
- Improved understanding on how the results of the reporting under SDG indicator 6.5.2 on transboundary cooperation can be used for development of the water management

### Learn from peer-to-peer exchange and international good practice including Team Europe

- Study on human capital in the water sector and recommendations on its improvement
- UNECE meetings on water, information exchange, monitoring, MEAs
- Thematic learning workshops

## WATER AND HEALTH

### Implementation of water and health agenda

- **Armenia:** Developed roadmap for implementation of the EU Drinking Water Directive
- **Azerbaijan:** Pilot project on identification of alternative water sources under changing climate
- **Georgia:** Working group on Water and Health established
- **Moldova:** Assessing implementation of the National Programme on the PWH for 2016-2025 and recommendations for future
- **Ukraine:** Targets under the Protocol on Water and Health included to the National Water Strategy, experience exchange on EU Drinking Water Directive

### Supported implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health (PWH)

- Promoted accession of new countries
- Reporting under the PWH & targets setting/revision
- EaP representation in the meetings of the PWH

## WATER & HEALTH: COVID / WASTEWATER-BASED EPIDEMIOLOGY

Innovative link btw the health of people and the water sector (here: wastewater management)

**Wastewater is a mirror of the society** with plenty of health information (SARS-Cov2, influenza, RSH, polio, drugs...)

**WBE has clear advantages** to human testing: cheaper, more representative, early -> helpful for health managers

Health needs access to wastewater from sewage & WWTP management: regular sampling.

-> institutional cooperation to build up a routine surveillance and reporting (public, WHO, EU etc.)

**New requirement of UWWTD** (art. 17) to facilitate WBE surveillance

EU4WD introduced WBE in all countries in spring 2022: assessments, various trainings, site inspections

Varying progress:

**Ukraine:** surveillance functioning every week in 27 regions, institutionally and legally arranged; 2 autosamplers from Vienna being donated to Kryvyi Rih WWTP

**Moldova:** surveillance in Chisinau set up, arranged and locally functioning btw health and WW sectors

**Georgia:** surveillance initiated by NCDC, legally scoped and +/- functioning

**Armenia:** surveillance introduced and well tested

**Azerbaijan:** surveillance introduced but not well tested



# NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR ALL

- ❑ A catalogue of NBS in EaP countries to:
  - Ease the integration of NbS into RBMP
  - Support Decision making: what NbS is relevant?
  - Describe 34 types of NBS
  - Provide access to further technical references for implementation
- ❑ Some concrete NBS proposals in AZ, MD
- ❑ Dedicated Workshops and field visits

EU4Environment in Eastern Partner Countries: Water Resources and Environmental Data (ENI/2021/425-550)

**CATALOGUE OF NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR WATER MANAGEMENT IN THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP COUNTRIES**

*H: high effectiveness; M: moderate effectiveness.*

Technical sheet	Effectiveness	Relevant nature-based solutions	Co-benefits			EU policies synergy
			Floods	Drought	Biodiversity	
<b>1.1 Urban wastewater</b>						
<i>May or may not be included in the UWWT Directive. Includes discharges from non-manufacturing commercial areas that can largely be assimilated to urban wastewater. Includes discharges of raw or partially treated urban wastewater that are identified as point sources.</i>						
23	H	Constructed wetlands for wastewater treatment			M	M
<b>1.2 Storm overflows</b>						
<i>Overflows from separated or combined sewers identified as point sources (for diffuse see "Diffuse - Urban run-off" below).</i>						
15	H	Rainwater management public features	H	M	M	M
11	M	Greening of cities (green roofs, city gardens, etc.)	M		H	M
12	M	Raingardens	M	M		M
13	M	Forested parks	M	M	H	M
14	M	Permeable surfaces	M	M		M
18	M	Soil unsealing (removal of built structures)	M	M	M	M
<b>1.3 IED plants</b>						
<b>1.4 Non-IED plants</b>						
<i>Industrial point sources from plants whether or not included in the E-PRTR.</i>						
15	H	Rainwater management public features	H	M	M	M
23	H	Constructed wetlands for wastewater treatment			M	M
11	M	Greening of cities (green roofs, city gardens, etc.)	M		H	M
12	M	Raingardens	M	M		M
13	M	Forested parks	M	M	H	M
14	M	Permeable surfaces	M	M		M
18	M	Soil unsealing (removal of built structures)	M	M	M	M
<b>1.5 to 1.9 Others</b>						
<i>Point sources such as contaminated sites or abandoned industrial sites, water disposal sites, mine waters, aquaculture or other types of point sources.</i>						
		No measure identified				

A strong demand for further works, fundings, experience feedbacks...





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# OUTLOOK AND CLOSING



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