

Working on strategy planning to take better water management further east

Regional workshop on strategic and mid-term planning for water management

Integrated water resources management at basin level brings significant governance and economic advantages. The result is concrete solutions for water users, ranging from tourism and energy needs to navigation and agriculture. The European Union is a frontrunner in this area and assists neighboring countries to improve water management. In this context, the participants at a regional workshop on 25-26 April in Minsk will work on devising measures for scaling up the application of modern river basin planning in the Eastern Partnership countries.

The meeting is organized by the EU-funded project “European Union Water Initiative Plus” and hosted by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus. It will bring together relevant institutions from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Republic of Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine and from EU Member States, as well as the European Commission and key international organizations. The discussions will focus on strategic planning of water resources and infrastructure. Challenges for planning and implementation based on the principles of the European Union's Water Framework Directive, including as concerns the role of reliable monitoring data, will be addressed. This will help further elaborate the measures being taken to align the national strategic and sectorial water plans with the international obligations including Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).

The EU Water Initiative Plus aims at equipping the partner countries to apply a more sustainable management of river basins thus improving both water quality and the quality of life for citizens.

The meeting will take place in Minsk, at “Europa” Hotel. Simultaneous interpretation (English and Russian) will be provided.

Background information: The European Union Water Initiative Plus for Eastern Partnership Countries project addresses existing challenges in both development and implementation of efficient water resources management. It supports the six partner countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Republic of Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine) to align their legislation with the EU Water Framework Directive principles and advance in their implementation. For more information on the project, please visit its website: www.euwipluseast.eu

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Implementing partners: the project is implemented in Belarus by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, and an EU Consortium comprising the Austrian Environmental Agency (Austria) and the International Office for Water (France)



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