

PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
**17<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE  
ON WATER SECTOR ISSUES IN ARMENIA**

October 19, 2019  
Yerevan, Armenia

The 17th Meeting of the Steering Committee (SC) of the National Policy Dialogue (NPD) on Water Sector Issues in Armenia was chaired by co-chaired by Mr. Edgar Pirumyan, Head of the Water Resources Management Agency of the Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia and Ms. Inessa Gabayan, Chairperson of the Water Committee of the Ministry of Energy Infrastructures and Natural Resources of the Republic of Armenia. to provide updates on the status of development of road map for implementation of 5 water Directives in Armenia under the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement; to discuss progress and next steps in implementing the European Water Initiative Plus (EUWI+) programme in Armenia and to receive feedback from the national stakeholders; and to provide a platform for coordination of donor activities in the water sector in Armenia, and enhance the international cooperation with partner organizations.



**17<sup>th</sup> Meetings of the Steering Committee of the NPD on Water Sector Issues in Armenia**

In the **opening session** Mr. welcoming remarks were made by Mr. Edgar Pirumyan, Ms. Inessa Gabayan, Mr. Gonzalo Serrano De La Rosa from the European Union (EU) Delegation to Armenia and Ms. Tatiana Efimova from Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The **first session** of the meeting related to presenting the progress under Result 1 of the EUWI+ Project. First, presentations were made by EUWI+ Project National Experts Ms. Stella Mikayelyan and Mr. Arsen Karapetyan on “Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA): Recommended Actions for Implementation”.

The presentation were followed by Q&A session, during which several issues were discussed, including the main challenges of meeting the obligations under the CEPA and options to overcome them, as well as issues related to practical implementation of the action plan of the proposed road map.

Based on the results of the presentations and follow-up discussion the following SC decision was adopted:



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- *The Steering Committee welcomes the presentation of the draft road map and requests all key beneficiary institutions to submitted written comments upon receiving the draft road map from the Ministry of Nature Protection within 2 weeks for its further finalization by the EUWI+ project national experts.*

Afterwards, EUWI+ Project Representative in Armenia Mr. Vahagn Tonoyan made a presentation on “Reforming “Harmful” Irrigation Subsidies in Armenia”, highlighting the key outcomes of the study conducted in Armenia with the OECD support. In the Q&A session that followed the presentation, SC members and representatives of beneficiary institutions discussed the challenges that irrigation sector of Armenia faces in covering O&M costs, as well as highlighted the pros and cons of the proposed options on reforming the irrigation subsidies, allocated to WUAs of the country.

Based on the results of the presentation and follow-up discussion the following SC decision was adopted:

- *The Steering Committee welcomes the presentation of the key outcomes of the study, and requests the EUWI+ Project team to update the study, reflecting the comments made by the Steering Committee members and representatives of beneficiary institutions, and submit the revised version to the Water Committee for official comments.*

Finally, as part of presenting the progress under the UNECE supported activities within Result 1 of the EUWI+ Project, EUWI+ Project National Experts Ms. Emma Anakhasyan and Mr. Tigran Oganezov made a presentation on “Revision of targets in the context of the Protocol on Water and Health and work on Equitable Access to Water Supply and Sanitation in Armenia”.

The presentations were followed by Q&A session, during which, particularly challenges related to sanitation sector of Armenia were discussed.

Based on the results of the presentations and follow-up discussion the following SC decision was adopted:

- *The Steering Committee welcomes the presentations made and requests all key beneficiary institutions to submitted written comments upon receiving the draft technical reports from the Ministry of Nature Protection within 2 weeks for their further finalization by the EUWI+ project national experts.*

The **second session** of the meeting was devoted to presenting the progress under Results 2 and 3 of the EUWI+ Project.

EUWI+ Project Leader Mr. Michael Sutter made a detailed presentation on the project progress in Armenia, providing an update on the laboratory development, and surface and groundwater monitoring.

Following that, Ms. Florence Pintus, Thematic Leader for River Basin Management Planning made a presentation on development of River Basin Management Plans in Armenia. In her presentation Ms. Pintus particularly focused on development of Hrazdan and Sevan River Basin Management Plans, implementation of soft measures from the program of measures of Akhuryan River Basin Management Plan, stakeholder participation mechanisms at different scales and public awareness raising, and water information system, data sharing and public access to information.



In the ***closing session*** of the 17th Meeting of the SC of the NPD on Water Sector Issues in Armenia the Chairman recalled the Steering Committee decisions made, as follows:

#### **DECISIONS OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE**

1. The Steering Committee welcomes the presentation of the draft road map and requests all key beneficiary institutions to submitted written comments upon receiving the draft road map from the Ministry of Nature Protection within 2 weeks for its further finalization by the EUWI+ project national experts.
2. The Steering Committee welcomes the presentation of the key outcomes of the study, and requests the EUWI+ Project team to update the study reflecting the comments made by the Steering Committee member and representatives of beneficiary institutions, and submit the revised version to the Water Committee for official comments.
3. The Steering Committee welcomes the presentations made and requests all key beneficiary institutions to submitted written comments upon receiving the draft technical reports from the Ministry of Nature Protection within 2 weeks for their further finalization by the EUWI+ project national experts.