



REGIONAL WORKSHOP: FACILITATING THE FINANCING OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE IN EAP COUNTRIES AND ASSOCIATED SITE VISITS OF EU PRACTICE FOR NATURE-**BASED SOLUTIONS**

28-29 June 2023,

Talent Garden Vienna, 6th Floor, Liechtensteinstraße 111/115, 1090 Vienna

Zoom: https://meetoecd1.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMsd-Cgpz0oH9DaWgk1JYbDpgxmfzrN2HRf

Background

Since 2016, River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) for 12 pilot river basins in the EaP countries have been refined or newly developed with EU support. Their official approval is advancing. Improved water management in these basins will benefit 30 million people and will concern 390,000 km². Transboundary cooperation is improving in several river basins: Kura and its subbasins Araz and Khrami-Debed, Dniester/Nistru, and Danube. However, though the average needed investment cost is estimated at EUR 25 per inhabitant per year, water infrastructure in the region chronically lacks investment in capital, maintenance and repair.

To help address the finance gap, several water investment projects are under way. The EU has leveraged funding in cooperation with several multilateral and bilateral providers of development finance, including AFD, EIB, EBRD, KfW, and NEFCO. EUR 35.5 million was allocated to two consecutive regional programmes (2016-2021 and 2021-2024) in the water sector, implemented by Austria, France, the OECD, and UNECE. In the context of Russia's war of aggression, EU funding has contributed to 6.9 million people in Ukraine regaining access to clean water. The Multiannual Indicative Programme 2021-27 supports a regional **Team Europe Initiative on Water and Zero Pollution** to increase impact.

Action on finance under the EU4Environment Water & Data programme is focussed on the implementation of RBMP Programs of Measures (PoMs), including Nature-based Solutions (NbS). This includes developing recommendations on domestic finance mobilisation through instruments such as water tariffs and taxes, assessing national enabling environments for water finance, and identifying innovative and cost-effective approaches. NbS can be cost-effective tools in the RBMP PoMs, for example through effluent treatment wetlands, the reconnection of rivers to floodplains for flood management, and NbS focused on habitats restoration.

Expected outputs and outcomes for the meetings

- Exchange on the challenges and opportunities for financing water and environmental improvements in the EaP countries, as well as the goals of the EU's Economic and Investment Plan (EIP) towards environmental resilience.
- Discuss the implementation of River Basin Management Plans, the potential for new technologies and approaches including Nature-based Solutions, and the opportunities presented by a "Team Europe" approach to the water and zero pollution thematic.
- Join experts from the Environment Agency Austria (UBA) on a full day of site visits to learn about EU good practices and how Nature-based Solutions can be effectively implemented.

Participants

The meetings will gather representatives including from national governments of the EaP countries, the European Commission, EU Member States, representatives from International Finance Institutions, civil society representatives, and implementing partners of the EU4Environment Water & Data Programme.











Co-funded by





DAY 1: 28 JUNE

Regional Workshop on facilitating the financing of water and environmental resilience in the Eastern **Partnership Countries**

14:00 - 18:00

Time	Item	Speaker
14:00-14:15	Opening remarks and scene setting	Mr Gernot Pfandler, Ambassador, Special Envoy for Eastern Partnership, Austrian Ministry for European and International Affairs Mr Gérald Audaz, Team Leader, DG NEAR,
		European Commission
14:15-14:30	Economic and Investment Plan (EIP) goals as concerns environmental resilience and EU instruments in support of EIP implementation related to the water sector	Mr Gérald Audaz, Team Leader, DG NEAR, European Commission
14:30-15:30	Experience and status update from EaP Countries on the needs, opportunities and challenge on investments in the water sector and the "water and zero pollution" thematic. Interventions may include experience of implementing River Basin Management Plans and Programmes of Measures.	Mr Martiros Nalbandyan, Deputy Chairman of the Water Committee Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of Armenia Mr Faig Mutallimov, Head of Environmental Policy Division, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan Ms Maia Javakhishvili, Deputy Head of Environment and Climate Change Department, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia Mr Radu Cazacu, Deputy Director, Agency Apele Moldovei, Republic of Moldova Ms Maria Shpanchyk, Head of the Department of Water Resources Management, State Agency of Water Resources of Ukraine
15:30-16:00	Coffee Break	
16:00-17:30	Experience and plans from EU Member States and multilateral and bilateral providers of development finance on financing relevant water	Mr Roman Havlíček, Director General, Water Directorate, Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic





Mr Gheorghe Constantin, Deputy Director and environmental projects in EaP countries General, Water Directorate, Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests of Romania Speakers will be invited to present their programmes, plans, challenges Mr David Tyler, Associate Director, Head of Project Preparation & Implementation, and experiences recommendations for EaP countries. Sustainable Infrastructure Group, European The session will aim to identify Bank for Reconstruction and Development opportunities, good practice and key (EBRD) barriers to bringing plans to Ms Ewa Manik, Associate Director, Eastern realisation as well as feasibility of working with a "Team Europe" Europe Energy Efficiency and Environment approach. Partnership (E5P), EBRD Mr Raphael Jozan, Director for the South Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia), Agence Française de Dévelopement (AFD) Mr Marco Beroš, Lead Engineer, Water Management Division, European Investment Bank Mr Raimund Mair. Sr. Water Resources Management Specialist, Water, Europe and Central Asia, World Bank Ms Birgit Vogel, Executive Secretary, International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River 17:30-17:50 Financing water and environmental Ms Angela Bularga, Programme Manager, DG resilience in EaP countries – EU NEAR, European Commission support and finance for biodiversity and NbS and EU4Envirinment Water Mr Matthew Griffiths, Programme Manager, and Data activities and site visits OECD Mr Alexander Zinke, Programme Manager, Environment Agency Austria (UBA) 17:50-18:00 Concluding remarks and meeting Mr Matthew Griffiths, Programme Manager, closure OECD Mr Gérald Audaz, Team Leader, DG NEAR, **European Commission** 18:00-20:00 Networking cocktail





DAY 2: 29 JUNE

Site Visits to examples of Nature-based Solutions

8:30-18:00

Objective: Through the site visits, participants will have the opportunity to learn about different types of Nature-based Solutions and discuss the practicalities of identifying, financing, designing, and implementing Nature-based Solutions, with a focus on what can be effectively implemented in EaP countries.

Detailed information | Register here

8:30	Departure at Hotel Mozart (Nordbergstraße 4, 1090 Wien, Austria).	
8:30-18:30	Site Visits (order subject to change): 1. Restoration on urban creeks (for biodiversity and recreation) 2. Re-introduction of sturgeon (sterlet) 3. Fish migration over hydrodam (bypass) 4. Groundwater recharge (improving difficult state for agriculture/irrigation)	
	Note: transport, lunch and interpretation to be provided.	
18:00	OPTIONAL: visit to a local winery	



