

Role of the National Water Policy Dialogue in Armenia as cross-sectoral coordination mechanism

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National Water Policy Dialogue in Armenia

- National Water Policy Dialogue (NPD) in Armenia commenced in 2006 under the umbrella of the EU Water Initiative
- Key objectives: To achieve water related MDG and SDG goals, promote IWRM
- Main funding source: EU
- Key operational instrument: EU Water Framework Directive
- Work methodology:
 - Over 20 meetings of the multi-stakeholder and inter-ministerial steering committee, co-chaired by the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure
 - UNECE and OECD act as strategic partners of NPD implementation in Armenia



National Water Policy Dialogue in Armenia

- Priority areas of work and main activity types
 - Introduction of IWRM principles according to EU water acquis
 - Work towards implementation of the UNECE/WHO Water and Health Protocol
 - Draft strategies for water supply and sanitation
- Inter-sectoral results
 - Transparency in decision making
 - Coordination among government agencies
 - Coordination of work of international organizations and donors
 - Sustainability towards political changes
 - Implemented of the EU WFD principles



Key achievements

- NPD in Armenia is characterized with high-level involvement of the Steering committee members
- Very serious approach towards harmonization of the Armenian water sector legislation with the EU water acquis in terms of IWRM
- Significant legislative reforms for adopted the key principles of the EU WFD, including recent amendments in the Water Code (July 7, 2022)
- NPD played a key role in development of measures for policy packages and achievement of significant progress in reforming water resources management, financing, economic instruments, as well as water supply and sanitation



Key achievements

- Water resources management
 - Development of pilot plan for Marmarik sub-basin according to the principles of IWRM and EU WFD (2007-2008), defining the necessary process and institutions
 - Development of Ministerial Decree on adoption of a Road map with 22 specific measures for implementation of the IWRM principles and harmonization with the following EU Directives: WFD, Urban Wastewater treatment Directive, Nitrates Directive, and Floods Directive (2019-2020)
 - Support to transboundary cooperation between Armenia and Georgia in Khrami-Debed River basin, including joint transboundary monitoring and data sharing: joint field surveys, technical guidance documents, series of in-person and online consultations (2018-2021)



Key achievements

- Financial and economic instruments
 - Development of strategy for financing rural water supply and sanitation, aiming to achieved water-related SDGs (2008-2010)
 - Comprehensive assessment of economic instruments for water resources management and preparation of recommendations of reforming certain instruments. Based on the recommendations, Government of Armenia reformed the water abstraction fee for fish-farms in 2014
 - Assessment of economic value of water in different water use sectors, including environmental value, to support the decision making in water resources management and policy (2015-2016)
- Water supply and sanitation
 - Development of water supply and sanitation strategy for Armenia, including specific and financially realistic recommendations on how to expand the service covered for population of of Armenia
 - National targets and action plan for Armenia were developed within the UNECE Water and Health Protocol

Lessons learned and remaining challenges

- NPD should play a key role in paving way towards post-Covid recovery in the water sector
- The current levels of investment in the water sector of Armenia is still by far below the estimated financing needs
 - likely decrease and competing demands for available finances due to COVID
- Need to improve coordination of investment priorities among the key national programs and sectoral plans
 - long-term financing plan
 - need to be more efficient and deliver more for less money

Lessons learned and remaining challenges

- Further support through finance mobilization to be able to implement the priority measures
 - engaging IFIs in implementation of the RBMPs
 - identification and implementation of low-cost solutions
- Identification of alternative potential funding sources for the priority projects, including through innovative mechanisms in increasing the attractiveness of the sector to providers of repayable finance, particularly those bringing private sector funds

Thank you for your attention!



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