



The EU-funded programme European Union Water Initiative Plus (EUWI+) has supported Armenia in its water policy reform journey since 2016. With about 80% of the country's crops irrigated, hydropower accounting for 40% of the energy production, and groundwater as a source of 96% drinking water, Armenia's development highly depends on the country's capacities to manage its water resources in a sustainable manner. The over-abstraction of freshwater for agriculture and the high rate of water losses in transport, have raised the water stress level. Lake Sevan plays an important role in meeting the country's water demand, but unsustainable management puts the lake under pressures. The water abstraction from groundwater resources has also more than doubled since 2000. Armenia signed a Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with the EU in 2017 and is committed to the approximation to the EU standards to build a strong water sector that supports the population, all sectors of the economy and the environment. EUWI+ has worked in partnership with key stakeholders on thematic areas including legislation, policy development and institutional capacity building; integrative river basin management, water quality monitoring systems; data management and public awareness.

NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE

Supported policy coherence through [4 meetings](#) with over 180 participants including representatives from environment, water, energy, agriculture, finance, economy, health, infrastructure and emergency situations, with an average 43% female representation.

TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION

Support to the transboundary water cooperation with Georgia on the Khrami-Debed River including [guidance document on joint monitoring](#) and [joint surveys](#)

Reporting to the UN ([SDG 6.5.2](#))

IMPROVED DATA MANAGEMENT

Automatic tools for better collection of data and indicators (3 main data producers)

Development of a new Armenian Water Monitoring Information System





Digitalisation of historical hydrological data

Integration of the data into a new management platform for both operational and analytical uses




[Visualisation tools](#) (dashboard, maps) to meet the information needs of different end users

LEGEND





Water policy reforms and international cooperation

-  Support to CEPA with adopted roadmap
Amended Water Code
Updated water quality standards for Sevan lake and basin district
-  Series of National Water Policy Dialogues
-  Revised targets under the Protocol on Water and Health
-  **Basin** Khrami-Debed basin: transboundary cooperation with Georgia

River basin management

-  RBMP Hrazdan, RBMP Sevan, RBMP Akhuryan
-  RBMP consultations in the districts
-  Akhuryan: protected areas delineation, environmental flow calculation

Water monitoring and data management

-  New lab and sampling equipment; diverse trainings and quality control QM/QC
-  Series of surface and groundwater surveys
-  New groundwater monitoring wells
-  Software and data valorisation

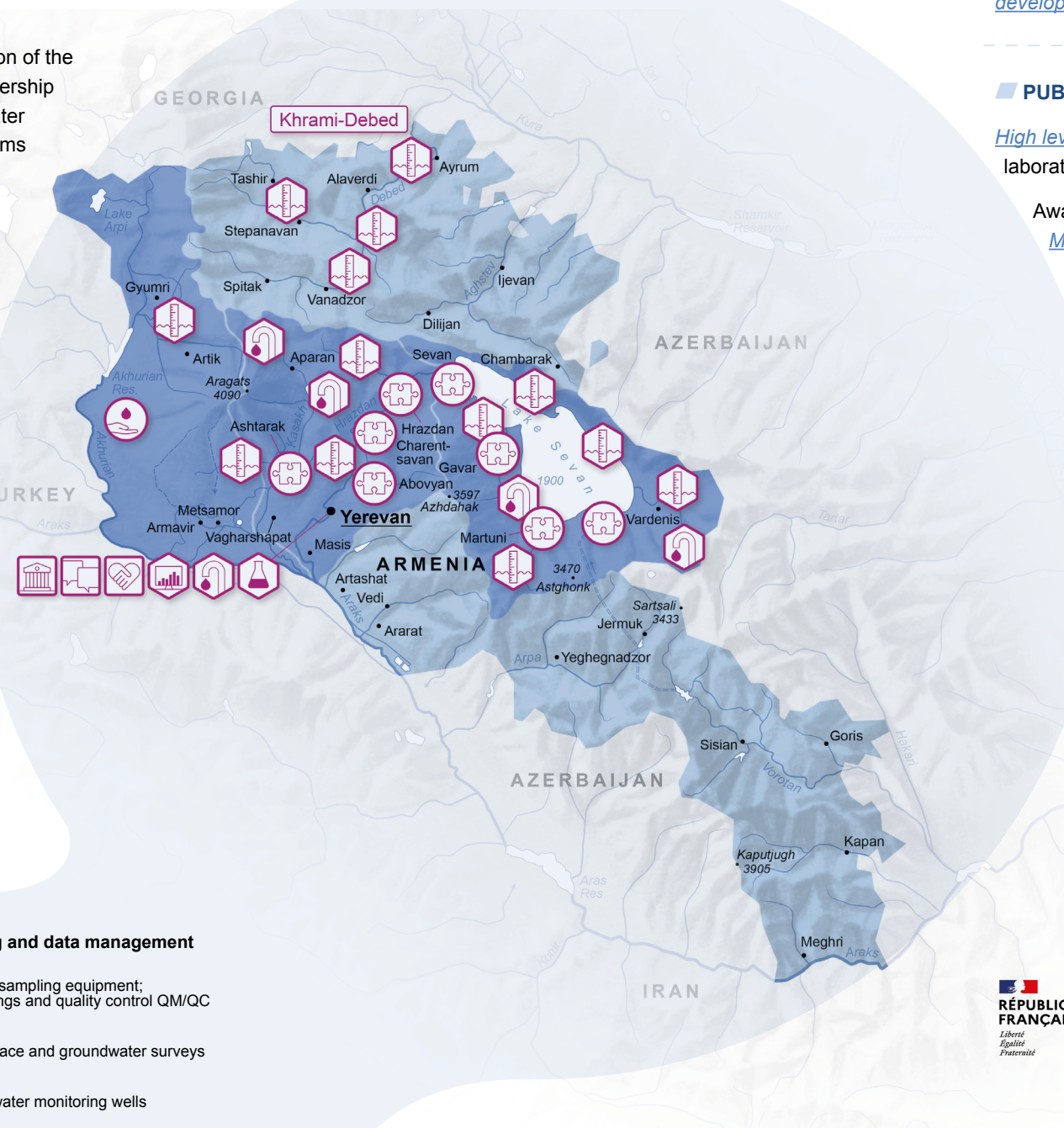
WATER GOVERNANCE FOR A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

[Approved road map](#) for implementation of the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with EU in the water sector gives solid foundation for reforms implementation (setting objectives, responsible divisions and sources of financing).

Development of updated water quality standards for Lake Sevan and the Sevan River Basin districts

Amendments to the Water Code and other key legislation prepared in line with the roadmap

[Revised set of targets to implement the UNECE-WHO/ Europe Protocol on Water and Health](#)



WATER MANAGEMENT AT THE RIVER BASIN LEVEL

River Basin Management Plans for the [Lake Sevan](#) and [Hrazdan](#) River Basins, ready for adoption (respectively 4,700 and 4,000km², 200,000 and 1,6 Million inhabitants)

20 Armenian experts involved in RBMP development, 8 [stakeholders consultations](#) with 184 participants, and 78 comments included in the plans.

National methodological [guidance document](#) to implement River Basin Management Plans in Armenia

Implementation of Akhuryan RBMP, approved in 2017, with identification of ecological flow and protected areas

EXTENDED WATER MONITORING NETWORK

Purchase of new high-end analytical equipment for sampling, sample preparation, field measurement, and analysis of WFD priority substances, physico-chemical and biological parameters

Upgraded hydrological monitoring network: [6 surface water](#) and 13 groundwater monitoring sites refurbished; 12 new wells

7 field surveys for surface and groundwater covering more than 140 sites

22 national and regional staff trainings on monitoring, sampling and quality management

Relocation and renovation of the National Laboratory

[20 technical reports on water monitoring + 4 translations, including surface water](#) and [groundwater monitoring development plans](#)

PUBLIC AWARENESS

[High level Laboratory celebration ceremony](#) to mark new laboratory location and improved capacities

Awareness-raising events for [Sevan Day](#) and [World Water Monitoring Day](#)

Educational activities for schoolchildren in cooperation with teachers, (30 schools, 300 schoolchildren for the [summer water quality testing campaign](#)) and series of school manuals on water ecosystems

50 news and press releases, 3 newsletters and 17 videos



UNEP



BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

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ENVIRONMENT AGENCY AUSTRIA



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AGENCE DE L'EAU

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