

AZERBAIJAN



The EU-funded programme European Union Water Initiative Plus (EUWI+) has supported Azerbaijan in its water policy reform journey since 2016. Azerbaijan has relatively scarce water resources and high demands in terms of irrigation and a growing population in urban coastal areas. As a downstream country, it is vulnerable not only to water quantity and quality risks, but also prone to highly damaging flood events. In its recent draft Water Strategy, Azerbaijan showed its commitment to the approximation to the EU standards and practises 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 175 participants representing ecology and natural resources, energy, agriculture, economy, health, and emergency situations, with an average 32% female representation.

TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION

Water monitoring, and reporting under the UNECE Water Convention and [SDG 6.5.2](#)

Support to transboundary water cooperation with Georgia on the Kura River

IMPROVED DATA MANAGEMENT

Automatic tools for better collection of data and indicators (2 main data producers)

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

WATER GOVERNANCE FOR A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Draft Water Strategy updated in line with key requirements of EU Directives on water, consulted with key stakeholders and progressed towards adoption.

Development of an Action Plan to support Strategy implementation

[First set of official targets under the Protocol on Water and Health adopted.](#)

WATER MANAGEMENT AT THE RIVER BASIN LEVEL

[River Basin Management Plan](#) for Kura upstream Mingachevir dam, ready for adoption (15,000 km², 1.5 Million inhabitants), and additional work for a water allocation strategy

6 Azerbaijani experts involved in RBMP development, 13 [stakeholders consultations](#) with 159 participants

PUBLIC AWARENESS

[High level Laboratory opening ceremony](#) to mark new laboratory capacities

[Awareness-raising events](#) during the EU Days, 700 schoolchildren reached

Support to a campaign on water-saving under the auspice of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources

32 news and press releases, 3 newsletters and 7 videos

EXTENDED WATER MONITORING NETWORK

Introduction of EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) compliant coastal and transitional waters monitoring on the Caspian Sea coast

Introduction of biological monitoring and EU WFD compliant ecological classification systems

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

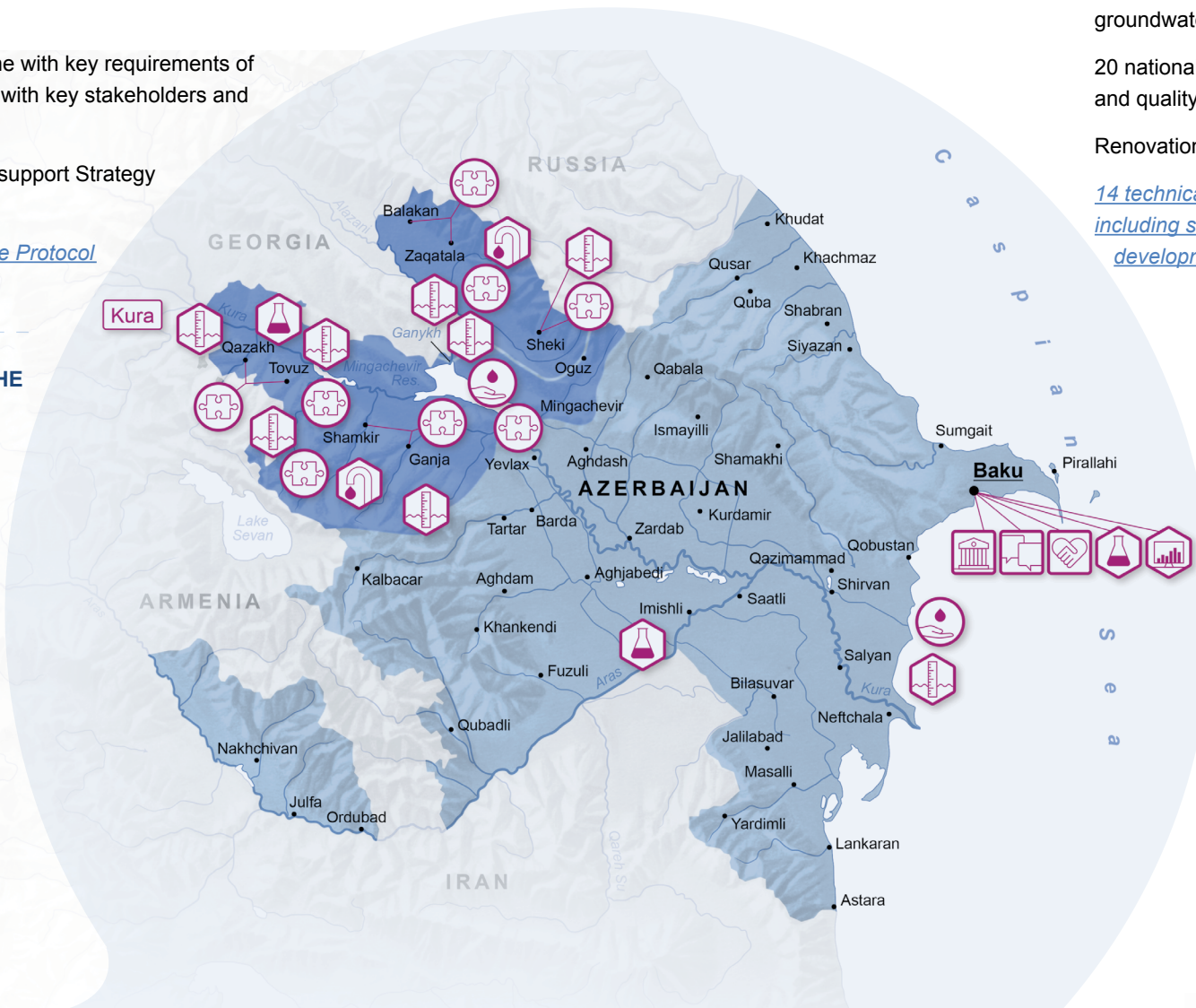
Upgraded hydrological monitoring network: 6 surface water and 7 groundwater monitoring sites refurbished.

6 field surveys for coastal/transitional, surface and groundwater covering more than 130 sites

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

Renovation and/or equipment provision for 3 laboratories

[14 technical reports on water monitoring + 3 translations, including surface water and groundwater monitoring development plans](#)



LEGEND

Water policy reforms and international cooperation

- National Water Strategy and action plan
- Series of National Water Policy Dialogues
- First set of targets under the Protocol on Water and Health Enhanced implementation of the Water Convention Supported SDG reporting
- Kura basin: consultations with Georgia on the Kura Agreement

River basin management

- RBMP Kura upstream of Mingachevir dam
- RBMP consultations in the districts
- Water allocation strategy; coastal water delineation; Lower Kura and delta Pressures & Impact study

Water monitoring and data management

- New lab and sampling equipment; diverse trainings and quality control QM/QC
- Series of surveys: surface and groundwater, Kura salinisation
- New groundwater monitoring wells
- Server and data valorisation

0 50 km



Map and leaflet design:
Zoi Environment Network

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