The European Union-funded programme European Union Water Initiative Plus (EUWI+) has supported Georgia in its water policy reform journey since 2016. Georgia has good water resources fed by mountain rivers and is regarded as a water-abundant country (12,000 m³/capita). However, demand on water resources from the irrigation and energy sector is growing, and unsustainable water management practices increase this problem, in particular high water losses in the water supply network system. Pollution is also increasing due to intensified agriculture and industrialisation and a growing urbanisation, a trend which is not yet counterbalanced by sufficient wastewater treatment. Georgia signed an Association Agreement with the EU in 2014 and is committed to the approximation of EU standards and good practice 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 four meetings with over 180 participants with representation including environment, water, energy, agriculture, economy and sustainable development, health and social affairs, regional development and infrastructure, with an average 55% female participation.

**TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION**

Support to transboundary water cooperation with Azerbaijan on the Kura River and with Armenia on the Ktsia/Khrami-Debeda River, including guidance documents on joint monitoring and joint monitoring surveys.

Support to reporting to the UN (SDG 6.5.2).

**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.

Visualization tools (dashboard, maps) to meet the information needs of different end users.

**WATER MANAGEMENT AT THE RIVER BASIN LEVEL**

First EU Water Framework Directive compliant Management Plans for Alazani-Iori and Khrami-Debeda river basins and extension of the Chorokhi-Ajaristskali basin management plan to the Black Sea coastal issues, including Batumi, all three ready for adoption (covering together 24,000 km², 961,000 inhabitants).

16 Georgian experts involved in RBMP development; 12 stakeholders consultation meetings with 319 participants, and 40 comments included in the plans.

**WATER GOVERNANCE FOR A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Finalisation of the draft new law on “Water Resources Management” and process of adoption commenced.

Assistance in facilitation of the reform of water abstraction charges.

Successful Strategic Environmental Assessment for Alazani-Iori river basin management plan.

Support to development of a strategic framework for water management.

**EXTENDED WATER MONITORING NETWORK**

Renovated laboratory in Tbilisi accredited to international standards.


Purchase of new high-end analytical equipment for sampling, sample preparation, field measurement, and analysis of EU Water framework Directive priority substances, physico-chemical and biological parameters.

Upgraded hydrological monitoring network: Surface Water – 12 surface water and 7 groundwater monitoring sites refurbished.

11 field surveys for coastal/transitional, surface and groundwater covering more than 230 sites.

29 national and regional staff trainings on monitoring, sampling and quality management.

23 technical reports on water monitoring + 3 translations, including surface water and groundwater monitoring development plans.

**PUBLIC AWARENESS**

High level Laboratory Opening ceremony to mark new laboratory capacities.

Awareness-raising events for World Water Day and campaigns on Green Days.

Series of videos-interviews with water experts and managers and factsheets to raise awareness on main water issues.

52 news and press releases, 3 newsletters and 16 videos.

The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the European Union concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.