



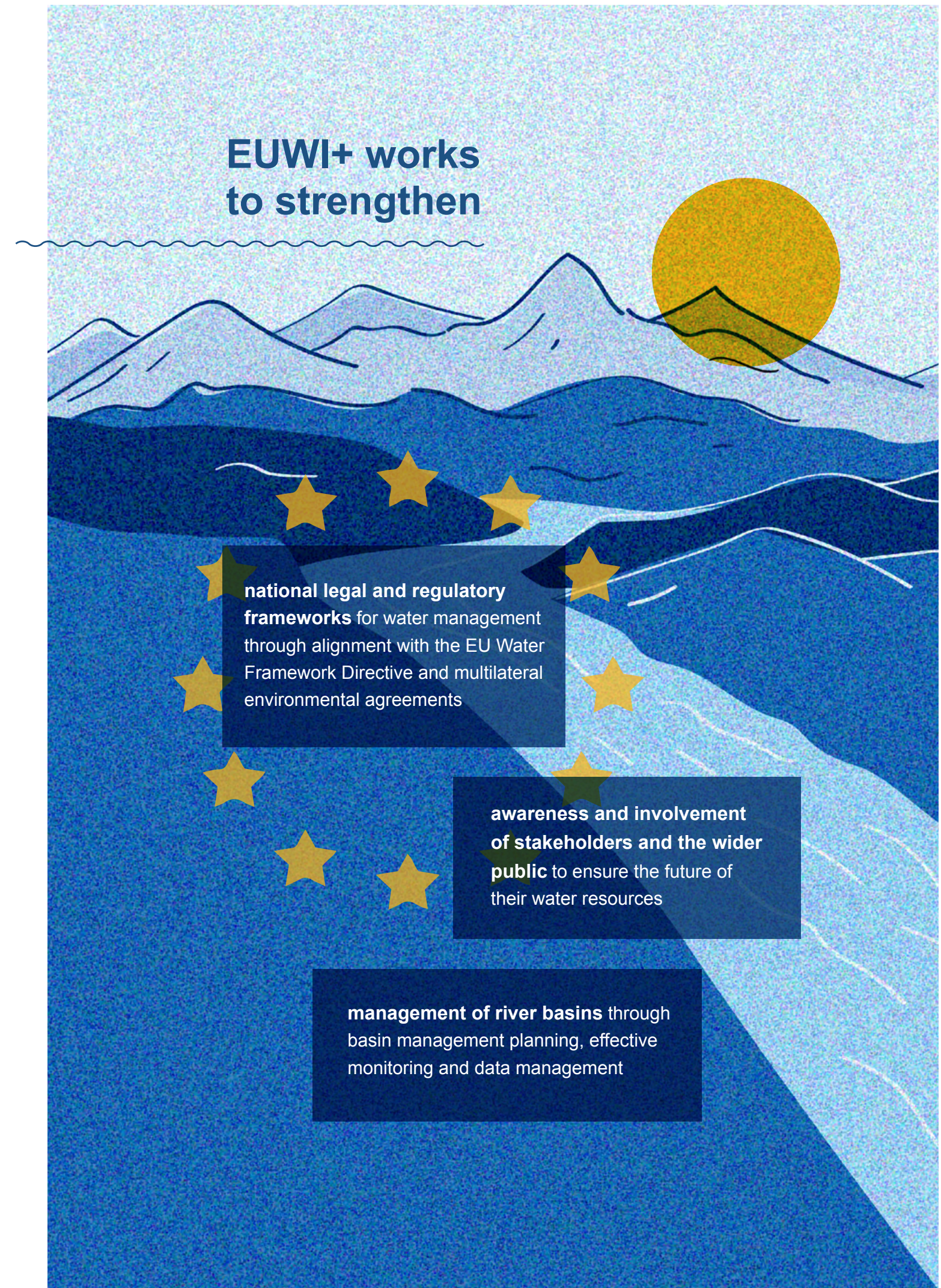
The European Union Water Initiative Plus

Supports the transition to healthy waters
in Eastern Partnership countries



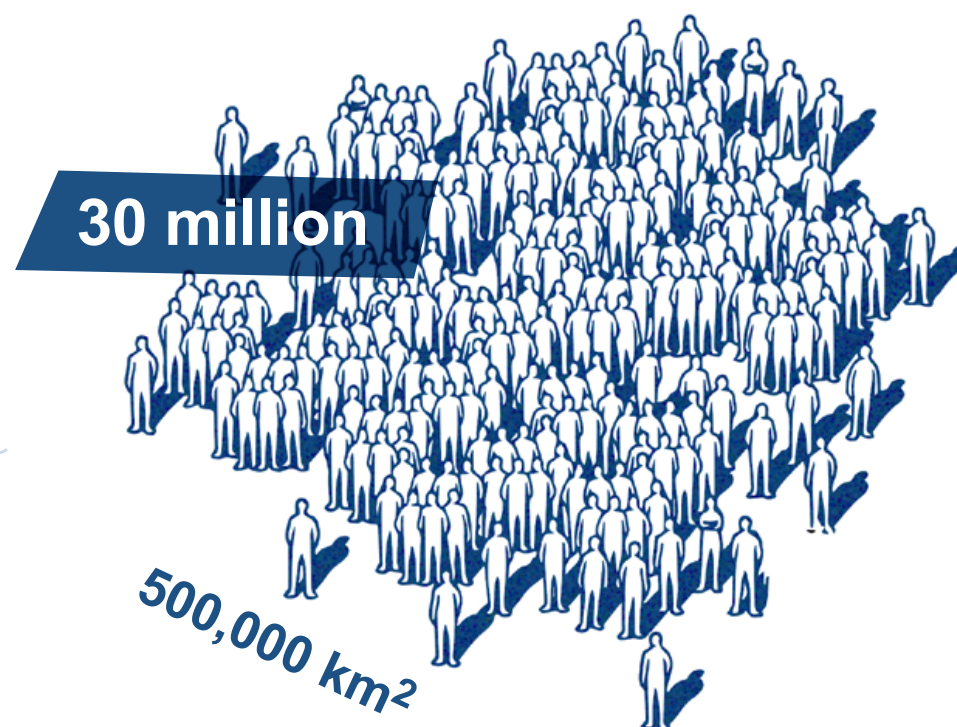
Everything we use, wear, buy, sell and eat depends on water. And safe water is a prerequisite for a healthy world. Today's environmental trends call for an urgent transformation in how we manage our water resources. We also need to keep investing in water, as insufficient water and sanitation generates substantial economic costs that are only going to increase with climate change. Over the past five years, the *European Union Water Initiative Plus* (EUWI+) programme has supported the six Eastern Partnership countries – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine – to adopt and implement a systemic approach to water management.

This approach follows EU and international standards, and includes groundbreaking concepts in water management, policy development, public participation, river basin management plans, and ecological monitoring. The EU Water Framework Directive provides a major reference to guide the partner countries' effort to balance human activities with environmental needs.

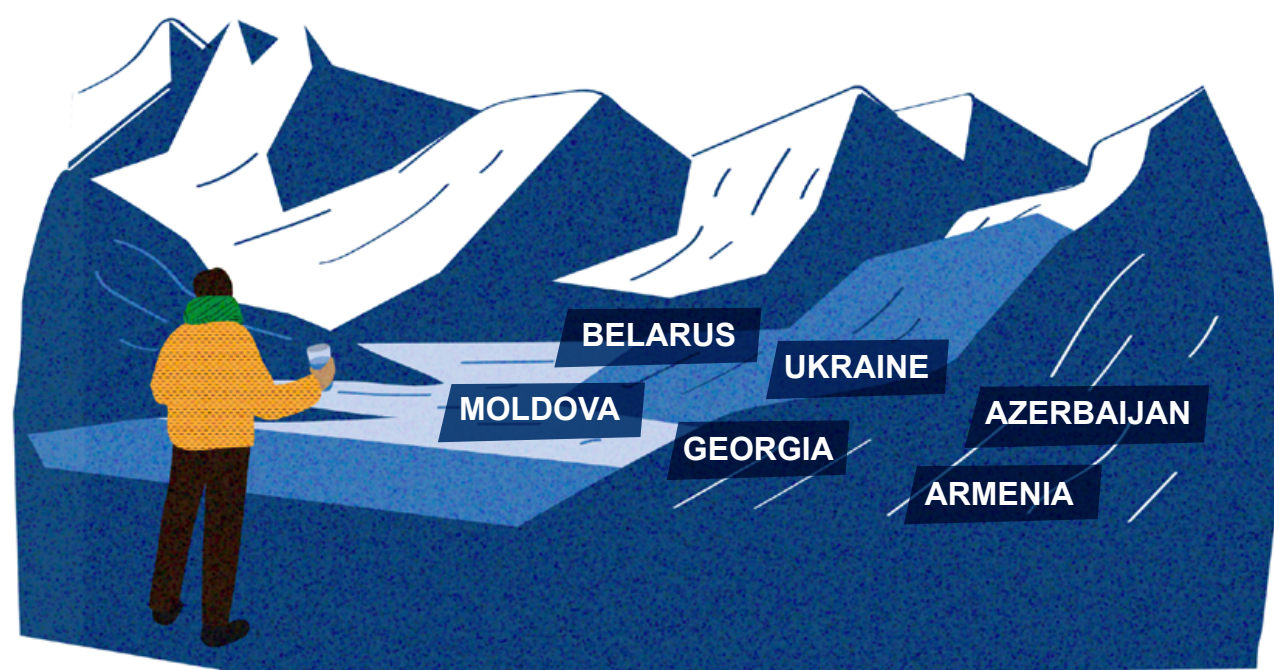


EUWI+ impact in key figures

Around **30 million citizens** (40% of the countries' population) on over **500,000 km²** (50% of the countries' land surface) benefiting from new or revised River Basin Management Plans



Quality of life set to improve in the **6 Eastern Partnership countries** through better drinking water, safer leisure and recreation, the creation of economic opportunities and preserved biodiversity



25 organisations in the **6 countries** have benefitted from **400 units** of state-of-the-art equipment items for water monitoring and analysis following best EU practices
6 renovated water laboratories (in 4 countries)
44 surveys carried out in rivers, ground- and coastal waters, covering more than **1000 sites**



More than **1 000 knowledge products**, including technical reports, databases, maps and web services, to help the public and authorities better understand and manage their water resources

More than 10,000 people directly involved in project activities through **National Policy Dialogues, public consultations**, numerous outreach events, and capacity-building activities such as workshops, training and field surveys



Top 10 EUWI+ success stories

1.

Political support for water policy reform through promotion and adoption of a range of **national-level policy packages**, including 5 strategies, 3 laws and 6 secondary legal instruments. The project has helped countries implement their existing Association or Partnership Agreements with the EU, or gradually adopt EU water management practices where formal agreements are not in place.

3.

Revitalisation and further development of **5 transboundary agreements** within the region (Dniester, Kura, Khrami-Debeda, Neman and Western Dvina basins) and with EU neighbouring states, and a joint field survey of transboundary rivers at the basin level (Debeda).



5.

Progress in implementing national policies and strategies at local level with **management plans for 11 pilot river basins** refined or developed, of which **4 have already been adopted** (1 in Armenia, 2 in Belarus, 1 in the Republic of Moldova). Such plans identify targeted measures to improve water quality and efficient water use, estimate the costs of the measures, and provide indicators to monitor their implementation in the mid-term (6 years). Support for the strengthening of Basin Councils as enforcement bodies and involvement of more than 100 local experts in the development of the river basin management plans.



2.

Six high-level multi-stakeholder platforms operational under EUWI+ with over **20 national policy dialogue** meetings on water to take policy reform forward and avoid a silo thinking. A more integrated approach could also be attained with the **engagement** of civil society, academia and the private sector.

4.

Progress in the implementation of **multilateral environmental agreements**, e.g. the UNECE Water Convention and its Protocol on Water and Health. Stronger links with **Sustainable Development Goals** and the EU Council conclusions on **water diplomacy** have resulted in improved transboundary cooperation and concrete water and health targets to drive public health benefits for citizens (6 country reports on SDG 6.5.2 and 6 national submissions under the Protocol on Water and Health).

6.

Significant progress in **improving monitoring capacities** (40 institutions involved in surveys, studies or training), investments in analysis laboratories (9 partner laboratories, of which 6 have been renovated) and in surface water and groundwater monitoring networks, supporting the implementation of higher standards for water quality, in line with the EU Water Framework Directive.



7.

Improvement of **integrated data management** and national water information systems to provide transparent data on the status and use of water resources: 6 national platforms with online servers, 3 national online thematic databases in Armenia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, 13 interactive maps giving access to 270 online web services, 21 interactive dashboards, and more than 400 metadata.

8.

Human capacity developed at decision-making level (strategy development, economic instruments, implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and Sustainable Development Goals: 10 events gathering more than 350 participants with 52% female participation), **and at technical level** (river basin management plans, monitoring design, sampling and laboratory analysis, data processing, river basin stakeholder involvement: 3,400 participants at more than 160 capacity-building events – workshops, training - with 50% women).



9.

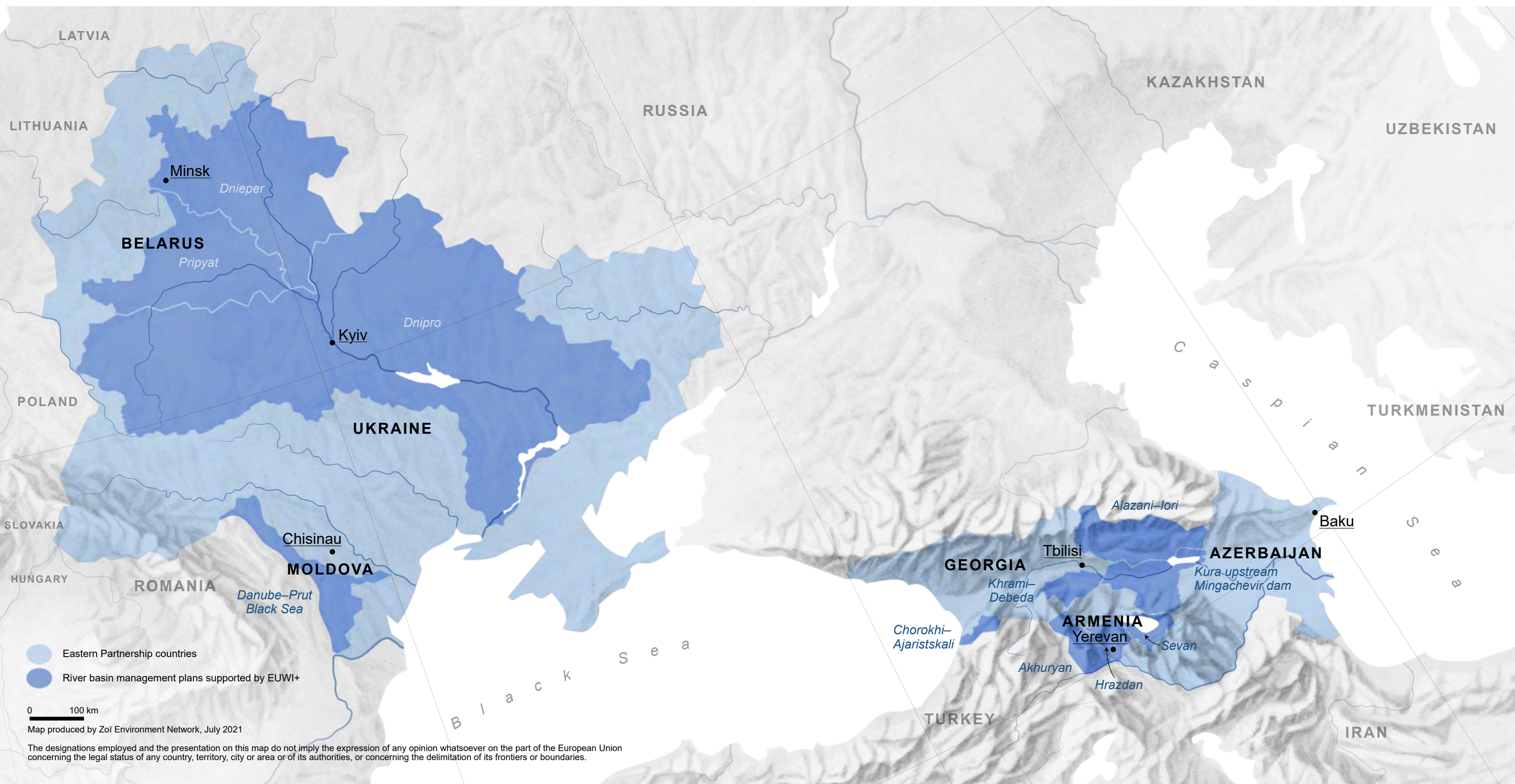
Raising awareness on water through more than 30 events (from educational activities to high-level Lab Openings) and 15 social media campaigns in cooperation with EU communication networks. **The project's accumulated knowledge disseminated** through the website with the publication of around 500 reports on water policies, water monitoring, river basin management plans and data management.



10.

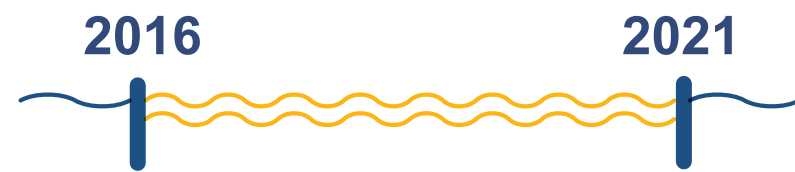
Public consultations at local level on river basin management plans (more than 50 meetings and 1,300 participants in total, with the participation of government representatives at local levels, elected local authorities, water utilities, industrials, farmers, civil society) and at national level on national policy documents (more than 10 consultation meetings on Strategic Environmental Assessment procedures, Protocol on Water and Health Targets, water laws and strategies).





EUWI+ project details

Implementation period:



Budget:

€24.8 million



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EUROPEAN UNION

€ 23.5 million from the EU and co-funding from the Austrian Development Agency, the operational unit of Austrian Development Co-operation and the French Artois-Picardie Water Agency

With funding from
 Austrian
Development
Cooperation

 RÉPUBLIQUE
FRANÇAISE  AGENCE DE L'EAU
ARTOIS-PICARDIE
*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

Implementing partners:

4 partners



OiEau
International Office
for Water



umweltbundesamt^U
ENVIRONMENT AGENCY AUSTRIA



UNECE

6 Eastern Partnership Countries



Armenia



Azerbaijan



Belarus



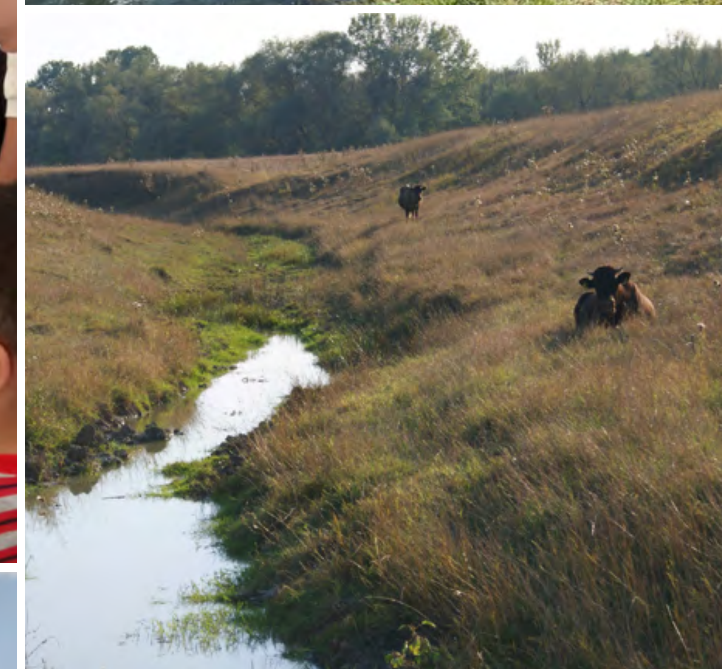
Georgia



Republic of
Moldova



Ukraine





YouTube



www.euwipluseast.eu

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