



PRESS RELEASE

Third meeting of the Steering Committee of the National Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management in Turkmenistan with the focus on basin planning

8 April 2013

ASHGABAT - Third meeting of the Steering Committee of the National Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management under the EU Water Initiative in Turkmenistan (NPD) took place on 5 April 2013 in line with the national holiday "A Drop of Water is a Grain of Gold". The financial support of the UNECE-led National Policy Dialogue was provided in the framework of the EU-funded project "Water Management and Basin Organisations in Central Asia (WMBOCA)", which is implemented by GIZ Transboundary Water Management in Central Asia Programme.

The NPDs are aimed at assisting governments of Central Asia in promoting implementation of the integrated water resources management (IWRM) in line with the principles of the UNECE Water Convention. On 4 August 2012 the Parliament of Turkmenistan took decision to accede to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention). It is a major step towards strengthening transboundary water cooperation and integrated water resources management. During the NPD progress on draft new Water Code was discussed. It is expected that the inter-ministerial expert group for drafting the new Code will complete its work in April 2013.

Promotion of IWRM implementation, in particular, basin planning approach as its integral part, is one of the goals of WMBOCA project. Basin planning approach is especially important for Turkmenistan with its arid climate: the approach ensures improved efficiency of available water resources use and contributes to water saving.

During the dialogue in Ashgabat, WMBOCA's activities on basin planning in pilot river basins were outlined: partners from Ministries of Water Economy of Turkmenistan and Nature Protection of Turkmenistan presented the report on implementation of decisions of the previous Steering Committee meeting.

Basin planning principles are introduced to water management agencies in the pilot Murgab river basin, in Mary velayat. Introductory trainings on the basin planning were conducted in Ashgabat, Lebap, Dashoguz and Mary velayats in summer 2012. As a complementary technical aspect necessary for the effective water management, WMBOCA project also organised trainings on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in Mary. GIS equipment and software were handed over to Turkmen partner organisations as part of the technical support.

Fruitful cooperation with Turkmen partners and their interest in innovative approaches to the water management is one of the key factors ensuring success of WMBOCA project activities, implemented by GIZ Transboundary Water Management in Central Asia Programme.

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Note to editors:

The National Policy Dialogues on water are the main operational instrument under the EU Water Initiative, an international partnership that aims at contributing to the achievement of the water-related Millennium Development Goals. UNECE is the strategic partner responsible for coordination of National Policy Dialogues on IWRM in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. Support for UNECE activities under the National Policy Dialogue on IWRM in Turkmenistan is provided by the European Commission, Norway, Germany and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).



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