

Improved application of integrated water resources management and strengthened basis for transboundary co-operation



SYKE/Tea Törnroos

FinWaterWEI II programme aims at enhancing water security in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan and the related region through an equitable and integrated management of water resources. The programme has supported 13 projects and has addressed four interlinked themes.

Here we highlight the results of four projects implemented within the theme of integrated water resources management (IWRM) and transboundary co-operation at basin level. The theme addresses more equitable and sustainable management of water resources through an improved application of the principles of IWRM, more specifically by supporting dialogue between different water-using sectors through inclusive platforms or mechanisms, such as National Policy Dialogues (NPDs).

The projects have been implemented in close collaboration with a wide range of Kyrgyz and Tajik governmental stakeholders at all administrative levels, development partners, NGOs and academia.

FinWaterWEI II 2014-2018

Programme for Finland's Water Sector Support to Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan

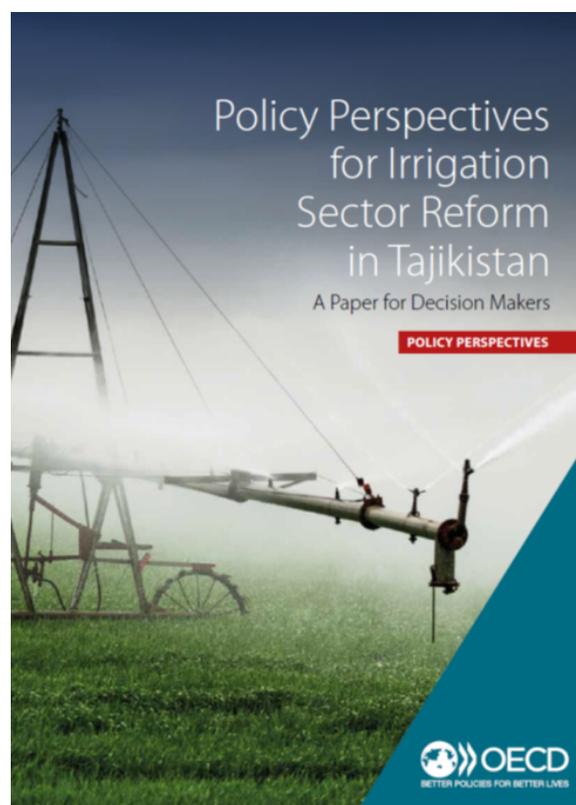
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The economics of water security in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan

Enhancing the use of economic analysis and incentives is instrumental for a more integrated, equitable and efficient use of water resources and increased water security. The project was implemented by the OECD under the GREEN Action Task Force and shared good international practice with Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Through a series of studies and policy dialogues the project enhanced local stakeholders' capacities in using economic analysis and incentives for better management of water resources.

Work in Kyrgyzstan focused on measuring water, food and energy security, improving policy coherence, conserving water resources, supporting reform in rural water supply and updating the national water supply and sanitation strategy.

In Tajikistan the focus was on supporting the reform of the irrigation sector, the principal user of water resources in the country. Capacity development featured strongly in both countries, considering issues such as the use of indicators and economic instruments in policy formulation and implementation, improving tariff methodology and operational practices in irrigation.



- Altogether **10 guidelines, reports and resolutions, textbook drafts**, such as:
 - KR: *New norms for design and construction for small-scale WSS systems in Kyrgyzstan*
 - TJ: *OECD Policy Perspectives for the Irrigation Sector Reform in Tajikistan*
- **2 study tours** (from Kyrgyzstan to Russia and from Tajikistan to Armenia) to **exchange experience** on economic mechanisms of water uses and on the irrigation sector reform and tariffs.
- **8 expert workshops** on new norms for small-scale WSS systems, agri-food and water policy coherence and on water, food and energy security and on water security indicators for informed decision making in Kyrgyzstan; and 1 pilot action on introducing a sustainable business model for rural water supply.
- **3 National Policy Dialogue meetings** in Kyrgyzstan and **2** in Tajikistan.
- **Support in organization** of the conference on Water for Sustainable Development and the meeting of the National Commission on Irrigation in Tajikistan.
- **1 technical workshop** to discuss draft guiding principles for the use of **economic instruments** to promote efficient water use in the irrigation sector in Tajikistan.

Kyrgyzstan & Tajikistan 2015–2018. Implementation by OECD.

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Finland's contribution: 600,000 €

Implementation of water, sanitation and health targets in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, with support of National Policy Dialogues

The project enhanced the capacities of the Governments of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in the implementation of the selected policy-related national water and health targets. With the support of the project the targets were revised in both countries and national action plans to implement them were adopted. The national water and health targets support in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals 3 and 6 of the 2030 Agenda. The project was implemented in the context of water, sanitation and health targets of the Protocol on Water and Health, jointly serviced by UNECE and WHO Regional Office for Europe. The project results were achieved by the intersectoral expert groups nominated by the respective governments.



Kyrgyzstan

- **Revised** national water and health targets and **action plan**.
- **Executive summary of the action plan** for implementation of the national water and health targets.
- **2 legal acts**: “Rules for exploitation and control of wastewater treatment facilities and wastewater discharge in Kyrgyzstan” & “Rules for industrial wastewater collection in the centralized sanitation systems in Kyrgyzstan”

Tajikistan

- **Revised** national water and health targets and **action plan**.
- **National Water Strategy of Tajikistan** (including draft chapters on drinking water supply and sanitation).
- **Reporting template on drinking water** for the State Statistics Office of Tajikistan.

In both countries, **a two-day intensive training was held on water resources management, water supply and wastewater treatment** (50 participants in TJ and 60 participants in KR).

Strengthening cooperation on hydrology and environment between Tajikistan and Afghanistan

The project enabled the environment for wider transboundary natural resources cooperation in the upper Amudarya basin between riparian states. It has particularly strengthened cooperation between the countries in the collection, exchange and dissemination of information on hydrology and environment in the basin and thus improving understanding of the need to better manage shared water and natural resources. The project involved the key governmental agencies, Ministries for Foreign Affairs, land resources and national biodiversity agencies as well as NGOs and local communities.

- Signed [Memorandum of Understanding](#) on exchange of information and bilateral collaboration covering e.g. water quality, biodiversity protection and glacier monitoring.
- **A joint work plan** (2018-2020) guiding the work of Technical working group on information sharing.
- **2 expeditions** with Afghan and Tajik participation in the shared basin.
- **3 expert trainings** on e.g. good practices for soil and water management.

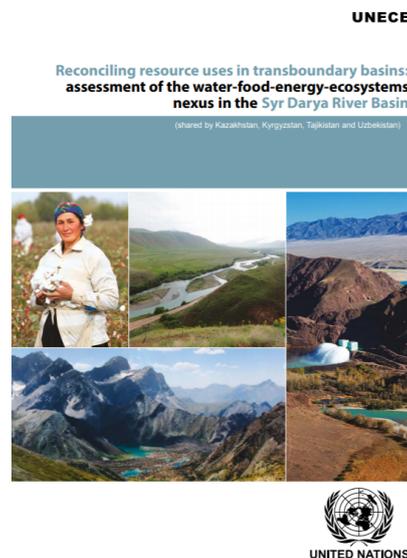
Tajikistan & Afghanistan 2015–2019. Implementation by UNECE, batyr.hajiyev@un.org

Finland's contribution: 175,150 €

Assessment of The Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus in Transboundary River Basins: The Syr Darya

The nexus approach enhances water, energy and food security by increasing efficiency, reducing trade-offs, building synergies and improving governance, while protecting ecosystems. This project contributed to the development of the nexus assessment methodology with multi-disciplinary expertise and fostered cooperation at the Syr Darya River Basin, shared by Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The main intersectoral issues and possible solutions were jointly identified. The assessment process was carried out in the framework of the UNECE Water Convention's Work Programme and the findings were discussed at the Steering Committee meetings of the EU Water Initiative's National Policy Dialogues.

- **Contribution** to the development of the [nexus assessment methodology](#).
- A cross-sectoral [workshop](#) on Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus Assessment
- The Syr Darya **assessment's findings included in the [UNECE publication](#)** (see picture)
- **Policy Brief** *Improving sustainable development in the Syr Darya River Basin through a transboundary nexus approach*
- **Side event** at the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the UNECE Water Convention



Kyrgyzstan & Tajikistan (+ Kazakhstan & Uzbekistan) 2014–2016. Implementation by UNECE, annukka.lipponen@un.org

Finland's contribution: 381,000 €

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