

# Strategic Partnership on Water for Sustainable Development

## The Strategic Partnership on Water for Sustainable Development - EECCA Component of the EU Water Initiative

As part of the EU Water Initiative (EUWI), a “Strategic Partnership on Water for Sustainable Development” was established between EU and the States of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia at the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg in September 2002. The partnership seeks to provide a vehicle to overcome the weaknesses in the way the tremendous challenges of the water sector in the EECCA region are currently being addressed, namely through a plethora of often-uncoordinated programmes and projects sponsored by EU, EECCA countries and other financial resources.

The Partnership is intended to build on and reinforce existing partnerships and bilateral and regional programmes, by bringing partners with related water activities together under a common framework and co-ordination. It will only add to the existing mechanisms where it is absolutely necessary to fulfil the objective of the Partnership.

Although an independent initiative, the Partnership can to a large extent be seen as the implementing mechanism of the water-related aspects of the East-West Environmental Partnership, developed under the “Environment for Europe” process.

### Main focus areas

The key problems and challenges in the EECCA countries will primarily be addressed through two thematic pillars:

- 1) Water supply and sanitation, including financing of water infrastructure, and
- 2) Integrated Water Resources Management, including transboundary river basin management and regional seas issues.

Within the water supply and sanitation pillar the following activity areas have been identified:

- Improve water supply and sanitation infrastructure through investment and technical assistance;
- Improve institutional and regulatory framework;

- Ensure financial viability of utilities;

- Ensure access of the poor to water services as a basic human right;

- Safeguard public health;

- Protect the environment.

Within the integrated water resources management pillar activities will be concentrated around the following activity areas:

- Strengthen legal and regulatory framework and its implementation;

- Support to institutional capacity building;

- Strengthen water resources monitoring and assessments;

- Improve access to information and public participation;

- Support to development of specific river basin (including lakes and regional seas) management plans;

- Preparation of national water resources strategy and water action plans.

In addition to the two thematic components the Partnership will have two crosscutting components on research and financing. These originate from the global EU Water Initiative and are expected to support the two thematic pillars.

### Building blocks

The core substance of each of the two thematic pillars are the “building blocks”, which are the activities that will be undertaken during the implementation of the Partnership and which in combination will support the fulfilment of the targets and objectives of the Partnership. The Partnership is not static and will develop over time as more building blocks enter into the initiative.

The building blocks may be networks, alliances or programmes and projects, which are either on-going, planned or under preparation (financed as well as unfunded), or just identified as needed. Where gaps in the building blocks are evident and where needs to fill these gaps are expressed, such gaps have been and will continue to be addressed through identification of new building blocks.

## Anchoring the Partnership within the EECCA region

An important milestone in anchoring the Partnership within the EECCA region was the High Level Meeting in Moscow in March 2003, hosted by the Ministry of Natural Resources, Russian Federation. More than 125 participants, primarily from the EECCA countries, participated in the meeting. Representatives of the various countries and organisations adopted a statement expressing their support and continued commitment to co-operation on water-related issues through the Partnership. Another important outcome was the establishment of six sub-working groups; each chaired by an EECCA representative. These groups work continuously on the further development of the partnership and its building blocks in particular.

## Organisation and co-ordination of the Partnership

The Partnership is open to all stakeholders – governments, inter-governmental organisations, NGOs, academia, financing institutions, the private sector, etc. Initial partners include EECCA countries, EU Member States, other European countries, the European Commission, international organisations, European civil society and the private sector.

A working group has been responsible for the development of the Strategic Partnership on Water for Sustainable Development - EECCA Component of the EU-Water Initiative. Denmark has acted as the lead country providing the technical secretariat to the working group.

When the implementation phase starts after the “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference in Kiev, May 2003, an organisational set-up of the Partnership comprising the following elements needs to be established:

- *A main political advisory body.* An inter-governmental co-ordination body for the EECCA Environmental Strategy is expected to be established in Kiev under the “Environment for Europe” process. This body may function as a general advisory body to the initiative and as a platform for exchange of information and experience of partners.
- *A Steering Group:* A relatively small but representative group of stakeholders involved in the two thematic components of the

Partnership. This body will discuss and lay out the overall strategic direction of the Partnership. It will co-ordinate the two components and be responsible for monitoring and reporting of progress of the Partnership.

- A *Partners Support Facility*. A small secretariat will be established to support the Steering Group and take care of the day-to-day co-ordination and representational functions of the Partnership. This function is to be seen as a continuation in a modified form of the lead-country role and Technical Secretariat function that Denmark and Russia have assumed for the design phase of the Partnership. As lead country Denmark has offered to finance the core of the Partner Support facility for one more year (Kiev +1).

### Status

In total more than 270 building blocks have been compiled and developed. The six sub-working groups anchored in the region have submitted more than 140 building blocks since the High Level Meeting prepared by the EECCA governmental bodies or other organisations. The majority of the building blocks, namely 60%, address Integrated Water Resources Management, while 40% address Water Supply and Sanitation. The financial needs to cover the planned or proposed activities (at present approximately 130 building blocks) constitute more than 775 million EURO.

Thus, the Partnership has had a significant impact of attracting financing. The EU Regional Strategy for the EECCA countries has earmarked approximately 35 million EURO for water related activities in the period 2004-08.

Using the ODA/OA funding as a lever for other forms of financing, including domestic financing to bridge the financing gap, Denmark has allocated more than 7,5 million EURO to the EECCA region this year to contribute to ensuring that the Millennium Development Goals are achieved.

A rough estimate of the financial needs for achieving the Millennium Development Goals related to water supply and sanitation within the EECCA region has been calculated to be between 20 and 40 billion EURO in total investment costs up to year 2015.

### Next Steps

During the first year of the implementation of the Partnership Denmark will undertake a more comprehensive financial analysis aiming at estimating the financial needs to meet the water-related Millennium Development Goals for the EECCA region and the feasibility of acquiring such financial resources.

After the Kiev Conference there will be a brief inception phase. This phase will allow for further discussion on the organisation set-up in order to reach an agreement with all partners involved.

Furthermore, a work plan for the coming year needs to be prepared. The tasks in the work plan will include, but not necessarily be limited to, screening and evaluation of the submitted building blocks, preparation of a donor pledging conference for financing of building blocks and establishment of a monitoring and reporting mechanism to assess the progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.

Further information is available at:



DANCEE  
Danish EPA  
Strandgade 29  
DK-1401 København K  
Denmark

Camilla Trolle  
Tel: +45 32 66 01 00  
Fax: +45 32 66 02 01  
e-mail: [cht@mst.dk](mailto:cht@mst.dk)  
[www.mst.dk](http://www.mst.dk)



DHI Water & Environment  
Agerm Alle 11  
DK-2970 Hørsholm  
Denmark

Henrik Larsen  
Tel: +45 45 16 92 00  
Fax: +45 45 16 92 92  
e-mail: [hel@dhi.dk](mailto:hel@dhi.dk)  
[www.dhi.dk](http://www.dhi.dk)



Russian Regional  
Environmental Centre  
39/20, building 1,  
Bol. Yakimanka str.,  
Moscow, 119049, Russia

Sergei Kuraev  
Tel: +7 095 238 1796,  
Fax: +7 095 238 2776  
e-mail: [info@rustec.ru](mailto:info@rustec.ru)  
[www.rustec.ru](http://www.rustec.ru)

Download latest version of key documents at:  
<ftp://eecca:WaterInitiative@ftp.dhi.dk/pub/>

## Strategic Partnership on Water for Sustainable Development

### - EECCA Component of the EU Water Initiative



- Launched by the European Union and the 12  
States of Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and  
Central Asia (EECCA)

May 2003