

Water quality monitoring --- developing the use of indicators-based assessments in the Kyrgyz Republic

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Water and environmental indicators is a key tool for assessments, reporting and policy making. Appropriately developed indicators can show key trends and help describe causes and effects of environmental conditions. They can also make it possible to evaluate environmental policy implementation, to set priorities and quantitative targets and to assess compliance with international commitments adopted.

Taking into account this important role of water and environmental indicators, countries from Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) have agreed, in the UNECE Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment and in close cooperation with the European Environment Agency (EEA) on a core set of environmental indicators for application in these countries.

Since 2010, the Programme for Finland's Water Sector Support to the EECCA Countries (FinWaterWEI) has had a purpose to ensure sustainable water management, to reduce water disputes inside and between countries to improve water supply and sanitation through improved education, increased investment and better alignment of the water management with the UNECE Water Convention and its Water and Health Protocol. FinWaterWEI aims to meet development challenges in partner countries through the promotion of ecologically, economically and socially sustainable development. Pure and safe water is one of the preconditions for better life.

The objective of cooperation and the purpose of the coming project in 2011-2013 in Kyrgyzstan is the exchange of experiences between Kyrgyzstan and Finland dedicated to the identification and adoption of broadly recognized good practices on water quality monitoring and how to organize and to carry out assessments of the status of nation's waters.

Data describing the status and pressures on water bodies is an essential tool for making a decision for a rational management of water resources. Like UNECE 2nd environmental performance review (2009) recommends; in Kyrgyzstan, there is need to work towards developing a detailed plan for renewing the monitoring networks for water quality and quantity and laboratory capacity, and for increasing the frequency and coverage of samplings. The project within FinWaterWEI programme will work towards that direction highlighting indicators-based reporting as an outcome of water quality monitoring to support national and regional decision making.