



Involvement of the EUWI+ project into International Water Day

22 March 2019



Background

United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 6 is crystal clear: water for all by 2030. By definition, this means leaving no one behind. But today, billions of people are still living without safe water – their households, schools, workplaces, farms and factories struggling to survive and thrive. This World Water Day, 22nd March, is about tackling the water crisis by addressing the reasons why so many people are being left behind <http://www.worldwaterday.org/>.

The request to support the World Water Day (WWD) came from State Agency of Water Resources of Ukraine to the EUWI+. As far as World Water Day goes in line with the national Communication Strategy the project supported this request.

Preparatory work

The preparatory work included:

- Development of the concept of the WWD and agreeing it with EU WI+ and SAWR

Box 1

Concept of the World Water Open Space Day

1. Water quality in Dnipro: presentation on the and practical testing using express tests

The project experts jointly with SAWR will make presentations on the latest findings on water quality in the Dnipro basin. After this it is planned to analyze the samples of river water and wastewater waters using express water analysis (1 min) by six main parameters (pH, total hardness, carbonates hardness, nitrites, nitrates and chlorine). The main idea is to show practically the difference in water quality and explain it.

2. P-free detergents: impact on water ecosystems and rules of selection of environmentally friendly detergents

As continuation of the informational campaign to prevent “blossoming” of the water caused by detergents, it is planned to show the cartoon on P-free detergents developed in frame of the project <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2MYnNtNmCE0>

After the cartoon there will a discussion how to select environmentally friendly detergent. This activity will allow youth to affect water quality by the choices done in their daily lives.

3. Riverine plastic waste : presentation and follow-up actions

Taking into account that riverine and marine litter become more and more urgent task to manage. The session will include presentation on the danger of the plastic waste for riverine inhabitants and practical information on the types of plastic waste and their level of hazard. Different ways of the plastic waste sorting will be presented.

- Development of the promo items (adoption of water express analysis table (Figure 1), a special design of the key chains from recycled plastic, exercise materials on P-free detergents and)



Figure 1. Scale for express water quality assessment



Figure 2. Key chain made of recycled plastic symbolizing active position of person towards conservation of water

- Development and agreeing with EU Delegation of media invites (See Annex 1);
- Confirming media accreditation for the journalists;

- Supporting of EU Delegation in development the post at Facebook for WWD.

EU delegation to Ukraine's post was focused on the P-Free detergents and results of the WWD conduction in Ukraine (Figure 3).



Figure 3. Post devoted to WWD at EU Delegation to Ukraine Facebook page

Actions

On March 22, the State Agency of Water Resources of Ukraine jointly with the European Union Water Initiative plus for Eastern Partnership (EUWI+) organized an interactive event for the youth of seven Kyiv schools. Children analyzed water quality in river samples from the Dnipro basin and compared the results with untreated wastewaters and tap water by six parameters: pH, total hardness, carbonate hardness, nitrites, nitrates and chlorine (Figure 4). They also learned why marine and river litter is dangerous, how to sort waste to prevent the pollution of rivers and seas and how to select environmentally friendly detergents.



Figure 4. WWD in Kyiv

See video about the event at <https://youtu.be/WtD2CaGtMI0>

The activities on express water analysis were replicated in other parts of Dnipro basin (with support of EU WI+ as well as in Siversky Donets basin (Figures 5 and 6).



Figure 5. Express water analysis in Nikopol



Figure 6. Express water analysis in Slovyansk



Dissemination materials

- Express water quality analysers 6 in 1 (50 strips in each) <https://www.aquamag.kiev.ua/ukhod-za-prudom/testy-dlya-vodoema/ekspress-test-colombo-quicktest-pond-6v1-50-polosok>
- Gifts to participants (key chain made of recycled plastic)
- Rebags (transparent bags, replacing the thinnest plastic packaging) <http://shop.nowaste.com.ua/product/nekulok/>
- Infographics on Dnipro blossoming and P-free detergents with cards with exercises

Results

- Public awareness on the water quality issues raised;
- Tips how to reduce human impact on rivers by changing daily practices (P-free detergents, plastic waste) provided;
- Project results on the Dnipro river basin disseminated;
- Project visibility ensured.

Annex 1. Media invite



⚡ MEDIA INVITE

Kyiv, March 18, 2019

Open Space World Water Day 2019 for youth

On March 22, the State Agency of Water Resources of Ukraine jointly with the European Union Water Initiative plus for Eastern Partnership (EUWI+) will organize the Open Space World Water Day for youth on the water quality issues all around the Dnipro River Basin.

The event includes:

- Presentation of the latest findings on water quality in the Dnipro Basin
- Analysis of samples of the river and waste water using express tests by six main parameters: pH, total hardness, carbonate hardness, nitrites, nitrates and chlorine
- Tips on how to select environmentally friendly detergents and to sort out river plastic waste

Media representatives are warmly invited to attend

What? Open Space World Water Day 2019 for youth
When? March 22, 2019, 13:00 – 15:40. Registration starts at 12:30
Where? Pinchuk Art Centre, 1/3-2 Velyka Vasylkivska Str., Kyiv

Working language is Ukrainian.

Media accreditation: Olena Marushevska at bluerivers.ukraine@gmail.com or mob. +380 67 9062061. Registration closes at 11:00 on March 22.

Background information: The 4-year project [EU Water Initiative plus](#) started in September 2016. It assists Ukraine and 5 other countries of Eastern Partnership (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia and Moldova) in reforming its water management according to EU standards in order to improve water quality and its availability in the long run.

The project is funded by the EU and implemented by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and an EU consortium of the Austrian Environment Agency (Austria) and the International Office for Water (France).

[The World Water Day 2019](#) is about tackling the water crisis by addressing the reasons why so many people are being left without an access to clean water.



THE PROJECT IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

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