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EUWI+ EU WATER INITIATIVE FOR EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

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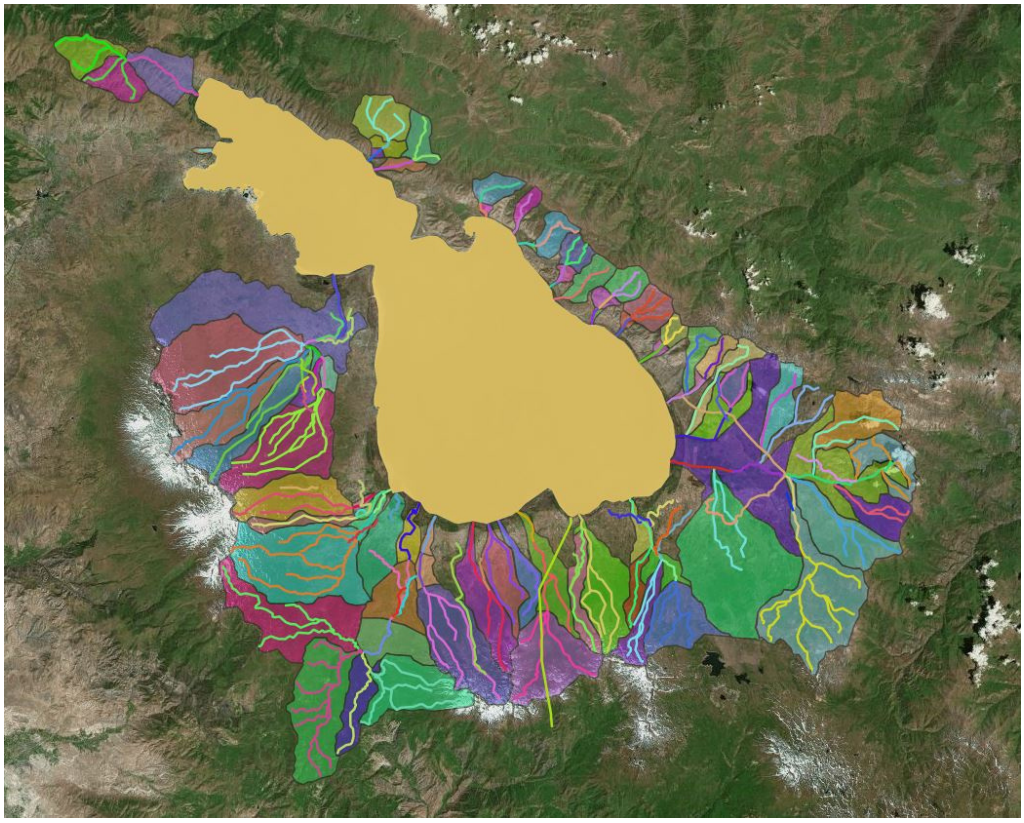
> Data management needs to be considered as one of the pillars of water management in Armenia. A strong political will is needed to increase demand for data-driven decision-making and policy development in the country. The existing information systems and available professional expertise can serve as a solid basis for future development of data management in the water sector.

Can you introduce yourself?

My name is Aram Gevorgyan. My educational background includes Master's degrees in Computer Science and Environmental Sciences and Policy as well as a PhD in Biology. I have extensive professional experience in data management and GIS, particularly in building information systems and using remote sensing technologies for environmental decision-making and management. For the last 20 years, I have been involved in various national, regional and international projects as an expert on data management/GIS, practising in the field of water resources management, disaster risk reduction and biodiversity conservation.

Currently I am working on constructing the Armenian Water Monitoring Information System for the recently established Hydrometeorology and Monitoring Centre of Armenia's Ministry of Environment.



Map: Sevan basin, delineation of the surface water bodies

Can you explain what data management is?

Data management in the water sector uses state-of-the-art information and communication technologies to build computer-based tools to facilitate informed and data-driven decision-making in the field of water resources management. This can be achieved using a wide range of decision support tools including hydrologic modelling software, remote sensing applications, online tools for spatial and spectral analyses of high-resolution satellite imageries, 3D modelling of groundwater aquifers, etc.

How do you see the future of data management in Armenia?

Data management needs to be considered as one of the pillars of water management in Armenia. A strong political will is needed to increase demand for data-driven decision-making and policy development in the country. The existing information systems and available professional expertise can serve as a solid basis for future development of data management in the water sector.

Dzoraget, Stepanavan, Armenia

What benefits can data management bring to the environment and the economy in Armenia?

Ensuring proper data management practices, including data collection protocols, internationally recognised data maintenance and data analysis approaches as well as up-to-date data safety standards will move Armenia towards integrated water resources management, which is a pre-requisite for sustainable development in the country.

How did you cooperate with experts from EU Member States?

The cooperation with EU Member States enriches our knowledge and skills in applying EU WFD concepts and approaches to water resources management in Armenia.

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