ACCOUNTABILITY AND BENEFITS SHARING IN THE CONTEXT OF THE WATER-FOOD-ENERGY-CLIMATE NEXUS IN CENTRAL ASIA

Stakeholder Consultation Meeting
on deployment Count4D tool and foster water governance for optimum benefits sharing in Shakhimardan basin

Press Release

Shakhimardan river basin in the spotlight of the European funded "Hydro4U (Hydropower for you)" project

Hydro4U aims at demonstrating European small hydropower equipment and technologies in Central Asia thus contributing to a sustainable and climate-resilient future for the region.
In the frame of the EU funded "Hydro4U (***Hydropower for you***)" project a workshop on the deployment of the Count4D tool as well as a Stakeholder consultation meeting to foster water governance for optimum benefits sharing in Shakhimardan basin has been organized in Osh city, Kyrgyzstan on April 17, 2023. The organisers International Water Management Institute, office for Central Asia (IWMI), the project partner hydrosolutions GmbH and national partners such as the Kadamjay District Water Authority discussed with local stakeholders the importance of water accountability and benefits sharing in the context of the Water-Energy-Food and Climate Nexus with regard to the installation of Small Hydro Power (SHP).

IWMI jointly with its technical partners from hydrosolutions GmbH presented a draft version of the Hydro4U's Count4D tool to the relevant local stakeholders at national levels and collected necessary feedbacks from the potential future technical users. Count4D is a hierarchical digital water accounting and planning tool for water suppliers and water consumers alike. The tool was adapted to the conditions of Kyrgyzstan and the transboundary context of the Shakimardan River. The tool allows for water planning and factual water accounting for complex irrigation systems. It also allows for the monitoring of irrigated land using remote sensing. Count4d contributes to achieve the project's objective on innovative, objective, evidence-based WEF monitoring and accounting tool for SHP in Shakhimardan. Therefore, the feedback from the local stakeholders is crucial to factor in future developments of the tool.

Furthermore, IWMI jointly with project consortium partners had prepared various studies and analysis. The findings of these studies were presented at the Stakeholder consultation meeting and next steps with local stakeholders on how to foster water governance as well as on "climate-proofed" sharing regimes from Kyrgyz side of Shakhimardan were discussed. The institutional analysis as well as (WEF) Nexus tradeoff analysis are considered an important aspect of any intervention. For achieving viability for the operation of SHP, it is important to understand how sectors related to SHP are interlinked and structured as well as to quantify trade-offs between different water uses of the actors.

Invited local and provincial stakeholders from Kyrgyzstan include:

- Representatives of Qaradarya-Syrdarya-Amudarya Basin water resources authority
- Representatives of Kadamjay District water management authority
- Representatives of Rural Settlement in Kadamjay district (Ayil Okumetu)
- Representatives of three Water Users Associations in Kadamjay district
- Representatives of Osh Basin water management authority
- Representatives of Osh Technological University: department of Energy
- Representatives of Training and Extension System (TES)

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101022905.

About the project:
The Hydro4U project adapts European technologies on small hydropower plants to Central Asia, demonstrating viability in a forward-looking cross-border water-food-energy-climate nexus. Price-competitiveness will be assured through design alterations based on a prior analysis of unexploited sustainable small-scale hydropower potential in Central Asia. Hydro4U will install and assess two demonstration small hydropower plants (SHP): an eco-friendly low-head run-of-river plant and a medium-head plant, both with radically reduced planning and construction costs that do not compromise efficiency. These solutions will be fit-for-purpose based on innovation, modularisation, meaning a radically simplified structural concept, with longevity, eco-compatibility and socio-political acceptance. Under the coordination of Technical University of Munich (TUM), 13 partner organisations from 8 countries are collaborating to boost small-scale hydropower in Central Asia.

Further information on Hydro4U:

Twitter: @Hydro4Uproject

LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/hydro4u/about/

YouTube: Hydro4U; https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbjuyqi-5xFUd-MK9p5Foyw

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Project partner International Water Management Institute (IWMI):
IWMI is the leader of the project activity: *Accountability and benefits sharing in the context of the Water-Food-Energy-Climate nexus in Central Asia* in the project.
IWMI is responsible to carry out the quantification of shared benefits and trade-off analyses from SHP. The cross-sectoral nexus dimensions need to be fully understood, not only at regional level, but also in the specific local contexts where SHP solutions are planned.

Project partner hydrosolutions GmbH (HSOL):
HSOL is the leader of the project activity: *Innovative objective, facts-based WFE monitoring and accounting system for SHP* and main developer of the Count4D software. They are the hydrology experts for the estimation of the small-scale hydropower potential in Central Asia and the quantification of climate impacts in the demo and planning sites in the project.

Picture: group Picture *(please contact the press-contact if you would like to use the picture)*

Photo credit Mr. Ilshat Tukhvatullin, IWMI-Central Asia Office

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