



The INCONET CA Project and The Action Plan for a Central Asia Water Initiative – CAWI

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INCONET Central Asia: The Project in brief

- A 3-year long Coordination and Support Action funded by the 7th Framework Programme (Sep. 2013 - Aug. 2016)
- Dedicated to the EU – CA STI cooperation; focus on 3 Societal Challenges: Climate Change, Energy & Health
- Building on previous FP IncoNets addressing the region (EECA, CASC)
- Implemented by a consortium of 16 Partners from 4 CA countries (KZ, KG, TJ, UZ) and 9 EU MS/AC
- Budget of activities - 2 mil. euros



INCONET Central Asia: EU-CA Policy Dialogue

- Organization of Policy Stakeholders Conferences on the 3 Societal Challenges with a good mix of donors, policymakers and scientists (Climate Change, Sep. 2014, Bishkek; Energy, Oct. 2015, Astana; Health, May 2016, Warsaw)
- Ad-hoc support on setting EU-CA policy dialogue platforms (e.g. Request for an Action Plan for a CAWI)
- Capacity Building on R&I Policy: training of STI policymakers, Feb. 2015, Vienna



INCONET Central Asia: Analytical Evidence

- Policy Mix Peer Reviews (KZ/2012, KR/March 2015): A high-importance tool for STI reforms in CA
- Bibliometric studies of joint EU-CA scientific publications on Energy, CC, Health
- Mapping of Actions and stakeholders on 3 SCs (373 entries: 203 international; 48 bilateral; and 122 national); public database
- Benchmarking exercise of energy/climate change related institutes from KZ, KG, TJ and UZ (May/June 2015)



INCONET Central Asia: Mobility of CA Researchers

Grant scheme for CA participation in BEs, in particular on 3 SCs

- Grants for “Coached twinning for H2020” among EU-CA research partners; New call; Deadline: 15 January 2016

- New Work Programme (2016-2017) of Horizon 2020 now available



INCONET Central Asia: Promotion of Innovation

- Cooperation with the EU Technological Platforms (e.g. SET Plan Conference, Rome, Dec. 2014; Innovation Festival of Climate KIC, Birmingham, Oct. 2015; Synergies with KIC Inno Energy)
- Promotion of the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) in CA (Workshop with successful examples of third countries participation and ways to extend the network in CA countries, Tashkent, Oct. 2015)
- Training in the field of innovation, Almaty, Sept. 2014, Dushanbe, spring 2016)





IncoNet CA: An Action Plan for a Central Asia Water Initiative (CAWI)

Strategic Position of Central Asia



INCONET Central Asia: Action Plan for a CAWI

THE PROBLEM:

- I. Lack of cooperation and regional dialogue in Central Asia water related issues is a problem for the region. A conflict area that deserves special attention.
- II. How the water resources are to be used and whether they are seen as a commodity or public good.
- III. Downstream countries, KZ, TR and UZ are dependent on irrigated agriculture, whereas upstream countries, KG and TJ, are focused on expanding reservoir capacity and hydroelectric power generation.

Impact of Soviet Union Water management system in Central Asia

- I. Inherited an interconnected and complex hydraulic infrastructure system.
- II. Soviet planners deliberately divided resources and unified investment among them so none would be self-sufficient.
- III. Construction of large dams and water reservoirs in the mountainous areas of the upstream countries Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.
- IV. On the other hand, the lowlands were suitable for practicing irrigated agriculture and for growing water intensive agricultural crops, such as cotton, rice and wheat.

State of Affairs TODAY (I)

- I. Tensions for water remain serious
- II. the region's main glaciers are shrinking, therefore decreasing the overall water supplies for the region (impact of CC)
- III. STI Cooperation remains restricted among the CA countries
- IV. The EU has an expressed interest to be an important facilitator for establishing environmental and water governance since 2006 (EU-CA Environmental Dialogue)
- V. EURECA (Regional Environment Programme for CA); Donor: EU; 10 mil. Euros (2009-2015)
- VI. EU Water Initiative in EECA; EU Budget: 3,2 mil. Total Budget: 4 mil euros; through DEVCO F ; jointly with OECD/UNECE; 2012-2016

State of Affairs TODAY (II)

- I. Other International Organizations active in the region (ISTC; USAID ;UNECE; OECD; World Bank; UNESCO (+ World Heritage Convention);UNIDO; Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Transboundary Water Research (PEER) (Washington DC);US Geological Survey; IFAS
- II. Need for a comprehensive plan of scientific support to pressing water related issues possibly leading to a multiannual programme funded by various sources



Central Asia Water Initiative

Action Plan for a CAWI: Next steps

- I. European Commission request to IncoNet CA Project (Ad-hoc Workshop in Brussels, Sept. 2015)
- II. Desk Research and Contact with main International Stakeholders and local authorities (currently); E.g. ISTC, UNESCO, USGS
- III. Organization of a 3–day long workshop (4-8 April 2016); Day 1 (Presentations + Aim / expected output); Day 2 (Two parallel sessions for drafting); Day 3 (Plenary for reviewing the Action Plan)
- IV. Conference for Policy Stakeholders ; Written consultation (EC, EU/MS, CA, Inter. Organizations/Donors); Two Days (End of June 2016 or Fall 2016) ; Possible adoption of an Action Plan; Identification of Funding Mechanisms

Action Plan for a CAWI: Tentative topics to be addressed in the April 2016 Workshop

Section STI Issues

- **satellite monitoring / water information systems; underground aquifers; water flood modeling; climate change and melting of glaciers impact/forecasting; landscape stabilization; management of data including climate data**
- **water quality; water pollution; desalination of water safe drinking water & sanitation; water industry ; water technologies / harmonization of technologies**
- **efficient use of water, evaluation of water systems water resource availability and use; energy (hydroelectric power generation)**
- **transdisciplinary approaches and innovation**

Section Socio-economic, Policy and Regulatory Issues

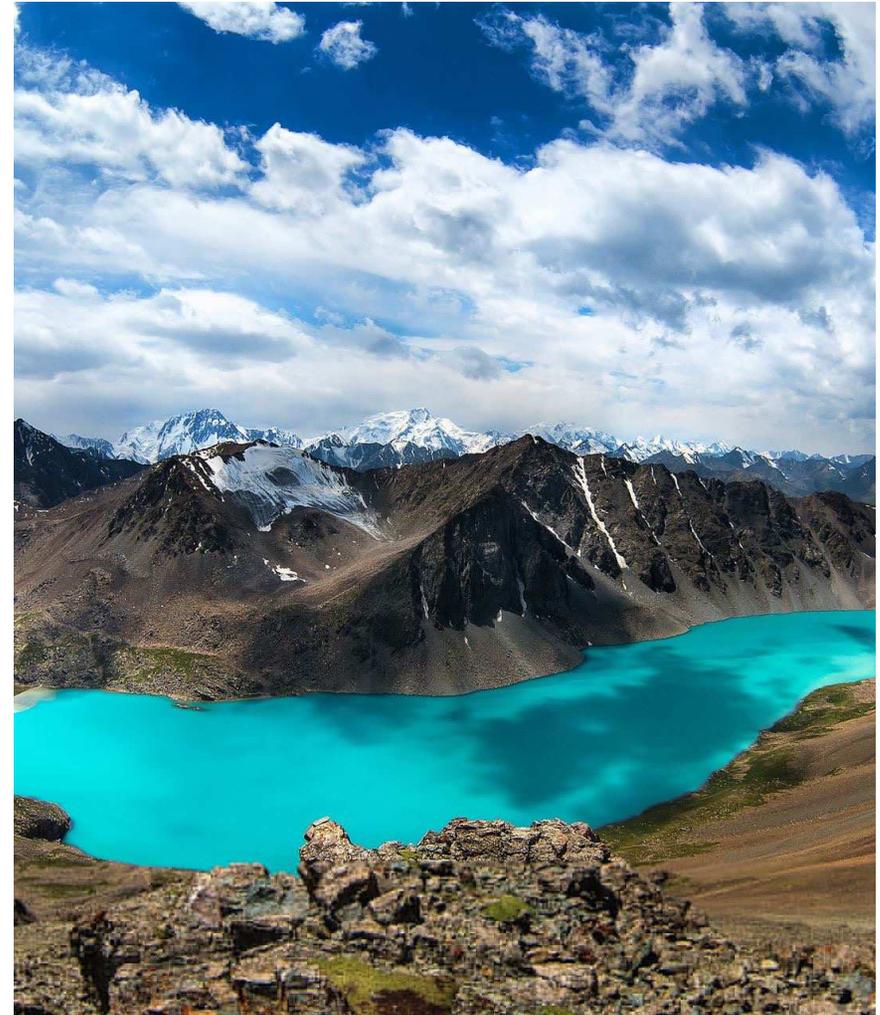
- **sustainable management of water; water pricing / pricing scenarios; development of water infrastructures & HR; training aspects & capacity building; shared basin management plans**
- **agriculture / forest management (sectoral water management); water security / energy security / food security / ecosystems security nexus inclusive green growth**
- **support of water NGOs**
- **water rights; access to water; domestic water law reforms; International Water Law / UNECE Water Convention / 1992 Almaty Agreement; international cooperation and knowledge transfer**

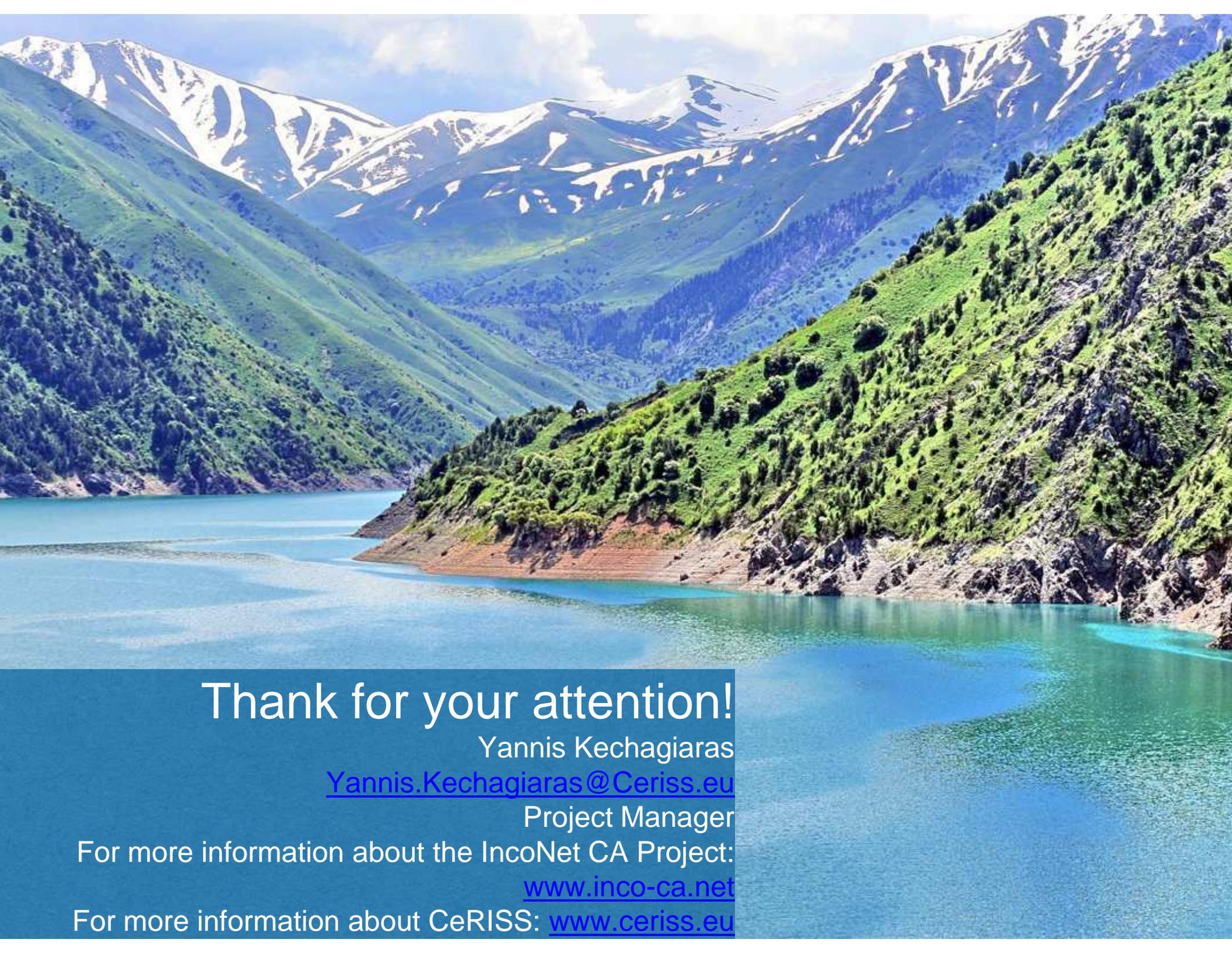
Quote from the Ad-hoc Brussels workshop, Sep. 2015

“Against the background of the climate change, active glaciers, dynamic glaciers movement and changes in a liquid water content of the rivers, we have a catastrophic reduction of hydrometeorological observation network in the Kyrgyz Republic.

To keep track of all natural processes and to give them a scientific basis and practical advice it is necessary to carry out large-scale qualitative observations that meet modern requirements and standards”.

Kyrgyz Scientist





Thank for your attention!

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For more information about the IncoNet CA Project:

www.inco-ca.net

For more information about CeRISS: www.ceriss.eu