

International Water Assessment Centre

Boris Minárik, Director
Slovakia/Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute



Convention of the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

1. Rationale and background

- IWAC was established as a collaborative centre of the Water Convention to be an effective operational arm of the Convention and its Protocols, and has helped transform these instruments' obligations into concrete action on the ground
- IWAC was formally inaugurated on 7 April 2009 in Slovakia and hosted at the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute
- The IWAC work plan for the period 2010 – 2012 was approved at MOP in Geneva 10 – 12 November 2009



2. Main activities since 2009

- Pilot projects on adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins (Dniester, Neman)
- IWAC has played an important role in the preparation of the Second Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters, both in terms of substantial and practical assistance to the Water Convention secretariat
- The project “Capacity-building in data administration for assessing and monitoring transboundary water resources in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia”
- Sharing of experience and capacity-building (Protocol on Water and Health, other trainings)
- Exchange of experience



3. Major achievements and challenges

- IWAC activities in the projects on the ground strengthen recipient countries in their cooperation (e.g. Dniester, Neman, Central Asia basins)
- Assistance to the water convention working bodies including organization of meetings
- IWAC capacity to fund-raise from other sources
- Challenges: stable and predictable funding; concentrating activities in specified items according to the work plan



4. Lessons learnt

- The good synergy and cooperation with the ECE secretariat. In implementing activities in the Convention's programme of work, IWAC and ECE were able to find good work-sharing arrangements, maximizing the strength of IWAC technical expertise and ECE as a political facilitator
- The possibility of using IWAC funds to add to other sources of funding, to quick-start activities or to respond to new requests. IWAC resources were mostly used to co-finance activities implemented together with other donors

