



REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE WATER ALLOCATION

*“SHARING EXPERIENCES ON TRANSBOUNDARY
WATER ALLOCATION AND WATER SCARCITY”*

CONCEPT NOTE

5-6 October 2020
Online platform

The Secretariat of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) administered by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), along with co-conveners the Ministry of Interior of Hungary, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and with financial support of the European Union under the European Union Water Initiative plus programme (EUWI+), is organizing a regional workshop on equitable and sustainable water allocation – “sharing experiences on transboundary water allocation and water scarcity” with the participation of interested States from Europe (with a focus on Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and the Balkans) and selected neighbouring riparian States. The overall aim of the workshop is to promote the exchange of experiences, lessons learned and notable case studies on equitable and sustainable transboundary water allocation, to enhance capacities of participants and cooperation on water allocation in a national and transboundary context and to support the development of a handbook on transboundary water allocation.

BACKGROUND

The Water Convention Programme of Work for 2019-2021 under its Programme Area 3 foresees support to an integrated and intersectoral approach to water management at all levels. Several activities on water allocation are supported under this programme area. One of the major deliverables under this programme area is the development of a handbook on equitable and

sustainable allocation of water in a transboundary context. The handbook will be a practical guide for use by government officials at all levels, as well as relevant practitioners working in the field of integrated water resources management (IWRM) and governance in transboundary river basins. This handbook will explore and give practical guidance on a range of approaches, frameworks and elements of water allocation including case studies. The aim is to provide a suite of options for practitioners to consider when assessing if any fit their own needs and modality.

The workshop is being co-convened with the European Union Water Initiative Plus (EUWI+) programme for the Eastern Partnership countries, funded by the European Union, whose overall objective is to improve the management of water resources, in particular of transboundary rivers, in the Eastern Partnership countries. The EUWI+ programme is implemented by UNECE, the OECD and an EU Member States Consortium consisting of the Environment Agency Austria and the International Office for Water of France. Within the framework of the National Policy Dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management under the EUWI+, assistance is provided to countries for legal, regulatory and institutional reforms in water management, in achieving the water-related Sustainable Development Goals and in setting of targets for sustainable water management, safe drinking water, and adequate sanitation. A training needs assessment under the EUWI+ revealed the interest of countries in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus for a regional workshop on water allocation and environmental flow requirements.

WORKSHOP

The “Regional workshop on equitable and sustainable water allocation - sharing experiences on transboundary water allocation and water scarcity” will bring together national technical level experts and heads of water departments focused on transboundary water management from States in Europe (with a focus on Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and the Balkans) and selected neighbouring riparian States.

The languages used for the workshop will be English and Russian with simultaneous interpretation.

Over two days, national and international experts will share their experiences, lessons learned and case studies on transboundary water allocation. The main outcome of the regional workshop is to enhance cooperation on equitable and sustainable allocation of water resources at national level and in a transboundary context, to enhance the capacity of participants in water allocation and environmental flow requirements and it will help collecting information, including cases studies, to be considered for the Handbook. Further resources such as publications, maps and case study details will be noted with relevant experts through correspondence.

For further details and contact information, please see additional information below.

Location: Online (Link to platform with registration details provided to nominated delegates)

Days: 2 days (5-6 October 2020)

Number of participants: 50-60 (2 per country)

Participants: Technical level & senior government officials in transboundary water management.

Languages: English & Russian (with simultaneous interpretation in both)

Themes:

- Equitable and sustainable water allocation in the context of a changing climate
- Environmental flow requirements
- Sustainable groundwater management
- Sustainable hydropower operation
- Water scarcity and drought
- National water allocation linking to a transboundary context

Objectives:

- Promote the exchange of experiences, lessons learned and notable case studies on equitable and sustainable transboundary water allocation by national experts within different contexts.
- Enhance cooperation on equitable and sustainable allocation of water resources at the national and in a transboundary context.
- Enhance the capacity of participants in water allocation and on environmental flow requirements.
- Discuss and receive feedback on the Handbook on Transboundary Water Allocation and integrate these recommendations into the publication.
- Collect key information on experiences, lessons learned and illustrative case studies for the Handbook.

Outcomes:

- Enhanced cooperation on water allocation and enhanced capacity of participants in water allocation and on environmental flow requirements
- Collected key information on experiences, lessons learned and illustrative case studies for the Handbook.

Links to background materials:

- [Transboundary Water Allocation Handbook Concept Note \(English\)](#)
- [Transboundary Water Allocation Handbook Concept Note \(Russian\)](#)
- [First meeting of the Expert Group on the Transboundary Water Allocation Handbook \(21 October 2019\)](#)
- [Global Workshop on transboundary Water Allocation \(16-17 October 2017\)](#)
- [OECD 'Water Resources Allocation: Sharing Risks & Opportunities' 2015](#)

Contact details for further information:

- **ENGLISH SPEAKERS:** Mr. Remy Kinna, Water Convention Secretariat (remy.kinna@un.org)
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