



Evaluation Summary

WORKSHOP ON JOINT MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT OF SHARED WATER BASINS, INCLUDING EARLY WARNING AND ALARM SYSTEMS

Sheraton Metechi Palace Hotel, Tbilisi, Georgia

31 October-2 November 2005

This summary is based on 32 replies (unless otherwise stated) provided by the workshop participants

DEGREE OF USEFULNESS OF THE EVENT TO YOU IN TERMS OF: (number of replies)

<i>Please rate on scale: 1 (not useful), 2 (somewhat useful), 3 (useful), 4 (very useful), 5 (extremely useful):</i>	1	2	3	4	5
1. Relevance of subject to your work/area of expertise:			5	21	6
2. Knowledge and skills obtained for your future work:		2	12	17	1
3. Providing a forum for exchange of information with other participants:			10	12	10
4. Providing an opportunity to establish new useful contacts:		1	6	18	9
5. Identification of good practices and lessons learned:		4	12	11	5

RATING OF THE EVENT IN TERMS OF: (number of replies)

<i>Please rate on scale: 1 (poor), 2 (below average), 3 (good), 4 (very good), 5 (excellent):</i>	1	2	3	4	5
6. Clarity of presentations: (only 31 responses)		2	7	20	2
7. Quality of written material circulated by the organizers:			9	17	7
8. Organizational arrangements for and during the event:			10	11	11

The objective of the event is to: **FOSTER NETWORKING AND EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW JOINT ACTIVITIES**

To what extent the event has met its objective as stated above? (number of replies)

Not met at all: 0

Insufficiently met: 0

Partially met: 1

Mostly met: 21

Fully met 10

Overall impression of the event (only 31 responses)

Not satisfactory: 0

Good: 22

Excellent: 9

Would you be able to use the knowledge obtained in your work and/or to pass it on to other specialists within your country/constituency? (only 31 responses)

Yes: 26

No: 0

Maybe: 5

Would you recommend that other specialists from your country/profession attend similar events, if they are organized in the future?

Yes: 32

No: 0

Maybe: 0

What were the three most useful things that you learned at the workshop related to transboundary water management (the answers are ranked in their order of frequency):

1. Current situation in the field of monitoring in the EECCA countries, including qualitative and quantitative methods
2. Information management in the Tisza river basin and the use of GIS
3. Monitoring and evaluation solutions in other countries, in particular the example from practice between Finland and the Russian Federation
4. Strategies for monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters
5. International activities for the prevention of hazard in transboundary river basins
6. National coordination on the example of the Republic of Moldova
7. Organization of monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters shared by Belarus
8. GIS data management in other basins.
9. International commissions of river basins; Danube, Rhine, etc
10. General mandatory requirement for monitoring in the EU
11. Early warning systems
12. Joint river management programme for Kura-Araz rivers basin
13. Situation in the Central Asia region including information exchange mechanism in Central Asia within the Hydromet bodies.
14. Monitoring on regional level
15. Russian-Ukrainian joint monitoring experience
16. Contact details of relevant experts
17. Information exchange within the working groups
18. Activities of Water Convention Secretariat
19. Complex approach
20. Need for new approaches of monitoring
21. Data sources for further information
22. Presentation on Georgia and its water resources, history
23. Information on different organisations dealing with water issues, including international organisations
24. Information on regional projects in the South Caucasus (general info, without details)
25. Discussion: “Data interpretation” (the importance of evaluation and natural background, diffusive flow)
26. Water monitoring systems for the city of Moscow
27. Data management
28. Step-by-step approaches for development of monitoring and assessment
29. Requirements for information products
30. Modern approaches of water resource evaluation and management of transboundary water objects
31. Technical problem solving within the process of joint monitoring
32. Evaluation of transboundary rivers
33. Hydro-meteorological monitoring in other countries
34. Finnish experience in reducing the number of automatic stations
35. Experience in establishing indicators
36. Information systems of Kazakhstan
37. The application of Danish MIKE II model in the Ukraine
38. Countries’ experience in the development of mechanisms of data transfer, storage and its analysis

Suggestions on how the next workshops under the project Capacity for Water Cooperation could be improved:

Workshop preparation including logistics

1. Send the participants more working papers/documents/agenda before the beginning of the workshops
2. Invite experts on particular subjects/more international experts including experts on IWRM and experts from international river commissions
3. More diversified range of specialists in relation with water resource management, to invite the representatives of state hydrometeorology services, environmental pollution monitoring, water industry
4. Invite policy makers, government representatives, officials, NGOs, media
5. The list of participants should be defined more clearly, taking into account the special topics of the discussion; choosing speakers in relation to the success and experience in the field on which the presentation is done
6. Define more clearly the topics of presentations
7. Create a template for presentation in order to include only essential information focused on priority topics
8. Sort out in advance the problem of buying airplane tickets
9. Discuss the topics of presentations and working papers with their authors well in advance (1,5-2 months in advance)
10. Recognition by all the countries-participants of a list of transboundary watercourses in order to have the clear idea of area of cooperation
11. There should be a more narrow group of participants in order to discuss problems more relevant to the specific region

During the Workshop

12. Look more at methodology, practical examples, at least within the working groups, case studies on more precise aspects
13. Extend the duration of discussions in working groups (1-2 days)
14. Discuss issues of monitoring within the context of the link between the surface and groundwater quality indicators
15. Discuss issues of monitoring within the context of the link between the water quality indicators and river expenses.
16. Look at the practical experience of one of the participating countries, including the legal framework
17. Look at the EU experience of applying the Water Directive
18. Organise the work of some experts on a constant basis
19. Enhance the European Declaration “New Water Culture”
20. Strengthen the information exchange
21. Study the use of distance methods for monitoring
22. Elaborate “environmental indicators” and integrate them in the monitoring system
23. Organise visit to analytical laboratory to see the real situation and have an exchange of points of view
24. Distribute documents that would show the priority areas for every participating country
25. Prepare reviews on the results of sessions and distribute them among participants
26. Improve the information exchange between national bodies
27. Role games
28. Harmonize the network of monitoring of water objects between the countries

After the Workshop

29. Distribute CD with all the presentations and documents

General

30. Hold such workshops more regularly
31. Place the participants in the same hotel (or at least at the same area), in order to have some informal discussions
32. Organise workshops, seminars, courses on a more narrow topics (for instance, one particular basin with a well developed system of monitoring in hydrology, quality etc)

On which specific topic(s) relevant to your area of work would it be useful to carry out future training and capacity-building activities?

1. Early alarm systems during emergency situations on water objects (example: extra short term forecast for precipitations, pollution dispersion within the environment, using radars, satellites)
2. The work of the International Monitoring Centre
3. Integrated water resources management
4. Risks on transboundary watercourses, environmental risks management
5. Management of monitoring data
6. Transboundary water objects evaluation
7. Examples of implementation of the results of the workshop
8. Water quality in transboundary water courses
9. The experience of the EU in the field of the development of IWRM
10. Water quality standards in the EU
11. Evaluation of environmental capacity of water objects
12. Pilot project on transboundary monitoring
13. Monitoring and evaluation instruments
14. Methodology of environmental valuation of water management in a transboundary context
15. The prevention of water floods, protection from water floods, prevention, reaction, alarm, decision making
16. Modelling and forecasting
17. GIS systems
18. Computer-based systems for management and monitoring data, its transfer between countries, harmonization of software
19. How to attract investments for the water sector (national and international grant, credit institutions)
20. Data transfer mechanisms, detection of potential users and data access levels on national level
21. Interpretation of chemical analysis results
22. Comparative methods of analysis and standards in the Caucasus region
23. Training for monitoring experts in the Caucasus region
24. Acquisition of hydrometeorological equipment, raising the level of hydrologists' skill
25. Management structures and systems in a transboundary context
26. Incorporation of international requirements in national strategies and water resource management
27. Giving priority and valuation to the water resource problems
28. Elaboration of environmental indicators to characterize quantitative and qualitative indicators of water objects
29. To involve people representatives for state hydrometeorological services and environmental pollution centre (part of hydrometeorological services)

30. Training courses for chemists/biologists in laboratories of European countries should be developed for the Caucasus countries
31. Training courses for processing of monitoring data and information; data lay out and presentation
32. Advanced international experience in the field of water resource management (Environmental flows, More Crop Per Drop, etc).

Any other comments/suggestions

1. A great success of this seminar is the availability of documents in Russian and the possibility to make presentations in Russian
2. It is suggested that the next seminar would be held in the republic of Kyrgyzstan, lake Issyk-Kul during the summer (autumn)
3. Organise a network of experts to promote the Water Convention in the EECCA countries
4. Daily allowance is too small, the expenses were paid in local currency (lari)
5. Relevant issues discussed in the EU institutions (European Commission, other EU environmental bodies) should be raised.
6. Workshop materials should serve as a basis for the project document elaboration by donors and potential executors, with further accumulation in project offers which should then be transmitted to the UNECE for further consideration
7. Experience of councils for shared water basins in transboundary regions should be accounted for
8. There is a need not only for bilateral agreements on water object protection and use but also multilateral agreements on the use of transboundary water courses (for example, between Russia, Belarus and Ukraine for Dniepr river)
9. There is a need for wide publishing of the results of water object transboundary monitoring