



Convention of the Protection and Use of
Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes
Core group on pilot projects
First meeting
Geneva, Switzerland, 15-16 February 2011

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION REGARDING THE PLATFORM FOR EXCHANGING EXPERIENCE BETWEEN THE PILOT PROJECTS

I. Background and objectives

1. In order to foster exchange of experience, lessons learnt and good as well as bad practices between the pilot projects within the UNECE Water Convention's programme of pilot projects on adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins, a platform for exchanging experience is being created.
2. The platform for exchanging experience aims to:
 - (a) Enable a steady exchange of practical experience and sharing of lessons-learned on the technical and strategic aspects of adapting water management to climate change;
 - (b) Support countries engaged in the process of preparing national or regional adaptation strategies;
 - (c) Promote the implementation of the UNECE Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change;
 - (d) Create a community of experts and practitioners working on adapting water management to climate change;
 - (e) Collect the knowledge and experience already available regarding adaptation to climate change and attempt to distil good practices and lessons learned.
3. The Task Force on Water and Climate at its third meeting (Geneva, 12 May 2010) decided that the platform should consist of a web-based platform, regular face-to-face meetings and workshops as well as possible additional elements such as collection of good practices or methodological studies if considered appropriate. The online platform would include material in Russian language which would be its main added value compared to other existing platforms.
4. The online platform will provide an opportunity for constant sharing of experience as well as a collection of guidance material and other sources of information available. This platform should be as simple as possible, especially easy to handle and update for the administrators and users. Users would have different access rights and there would be a public and a private part, open only to registered users.
5. This document is intended to provide a basis for discussion by the Core Group on the different characteristics, outputs and deliverables of the platform for the exchange of experience. Taking into account the needs of practitioners, in particular of those experts involved in projects on adaptation to climate change, as well as the experience of other partners involved in similar activities, the Core Group is invited to discuss the following questions:

1. Would you use such a web platform? If yes what would you like to have there?
2. What specific features should the public and the private part of the platform have?
3. Is a discussion forum or mailing list needed? Would you use it?

4. Would you like to have the option to work jointly on documents and revise them using the platform?
5. Would you like to use the platform for communication purposes within a pilot project or rather continue using emails?
6. Would you like to have profiles with information of the users of the Intranet so that you can contact directly the relevant colleagues?
7. How often would you update the information and documents regarding your project? Who should be responsible for ensuring that the information in the public and in the private part is always up to date?
8. Who should get access to the restricted part? Only pilot project representatives or also other experts?
9. Should the separate web space for each pilot project only be viewable by representatives of the pilot project or also by representatives of other pilot projects?
10. How to ensure partnership and cooperation with similar initiatives?
11. How can the platform be most user-friendly?
12. Should the entire platform be bilingual (English and Russian) or a part of it- if yes which parts?
