



National Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management in Ukraine

Fourth meeting of the Steering Committee
10 November 2010
International Exhibition Centre,
15 Brovarsky Ave., Kiyv, Ukraine

OUTCOME OF THE FOURTH MEETING

Introduction

The fourth meeting of the Steering Committee took place on 10 November 2010, followed by a core group meeting on 11 November 2010.

The Steering Committee meeting was attended by 58 participants representing the State Committee for Water Management, the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of health protection, the State Hydrometeorological Service, International organizations (the UNECE, the European Commission, and the OSCE, IWAC), regional water authorities, academia and NGOs.

The First Deputy Head of the State Committee for Water Management of Ukraine Mr. Michael Yatsuk chaired the meeting.

Decisions and recommendations:

1. The current situation with the implementation of the IWRM principles, including adaptation to climate change and flood protection.

Policy issues

The Steering Committee was informed on the results of three previous meetings of the Committee under the NPD on IWRM and the progress of Ukraine on IWRM principles. With the support of the NPD on IWRM the State program on flood protection in the basin of rivers: the Dniester, the Prut and the Seret was prepared and adopted in 2008 in Ukraine. In 2009, the concept of the State Program on Water sector development for the period up to 2020 was adopted, which addresses issues of climate change adaptation and implementation of IWRM on the basin principle. The progress on stakeholders involvement into the river basins' management and stakeholders participation in the river basin councils (joint bodies) was highlighted.

However, taking into account that basin management principle has been declared in Ukraine, there is a need to develop a package of legal documents, to approval of which by the Ministry of Economy and Finance Ministry a financial and economic feasibility study has to be provided.

There is also a need to develop and adopt the Concept of implementation of State Policy on adaptation of Water resources and ecosystems management to climate change.

Policy packages

The draft of the Bylaw of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine "On Status of the basin principle of water management in Ukraine" requires financial and economic justification for approval by the Ministry of Economy and Finances of Ukraine. To conduct feasibility study it was proposed to implement a pilot project



at the river basin level, the pilot project has an opportunity to work on an approach to financial and economic feasibility development.

2. Information about the projects on IWRM in Ukraine

Policy issues

The Steering Committee was informed on a pilot project in the basin of the Dniester river “Transboundary cooperation in flood management and adaptation measures to climate change”, the project proposal for which had been developed in the framework of NPD on IWRM in Ukraine and was approved at the third meeting of the Steering Committee (October 2009).

Policy packages

The Steering Committee agreed on the need to systematize data and prognoses of climate change in the Dniester River Basin, obtained in the framework of pilot project on the Dniester, as well as other expert assessments made by other scientific institutions of Ukraine, for making appropriate management decisions on prevention of adverse impacts of water and minimization of a damage from them. It was noted that the issues of drought and desertification are also relevant to the southern and eastern regions of the country, this issue needs a study. In order to ensure sustainable water supply for population and economies under the changing conditions of water resource availability there is a need to improve the methodology and research instruments, including modeling tools. Development and refinement of regional forecasting models to study problems associated with water and climate change are seeing as an important step for the development of adaptation measures.

3. Sustainable water management, safe drinking water and adequate sanitation

Policy issues

The Steering Committee considered the results of public hearings, organized by NGO MAMA - 86 to discuss the draft of the National Targets (NT) to the Protocol on Water and Health, as well as the results of the Moldovan project results on setting of th National Targets for Moldova to the Protocol on Water and health.

Policy packages

Steering Committee agreed:

3.1. to support the decision of public hearings on the need on working on the draft NTs, which requires the additional meetings of coordination group of the project. Moldova's experience on targets setting is useful for Ukraine to study and use.

3.2. to recommend to the Ministry of environment of Ukraine to lay out on Website the NT draft and announce the terms of public consultstions on it



3.3. to coordinate the implementation of the Protocol in Ukraine it is necessary to nominate the national coordinators from the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Health.

3.4. to establish an inter-ministerial coordination mechanism for implementation of the Protocol with the participation of representatives of all responsible ministries and departments, as well as the representatives of the public.

.to consider the possibilities to hold a joint meeting with the Steering Committee on the NPD on Water Sector Reform to discuss the Protocol on Water and Health implementation in Ukraine with an invitation of the representatives of the Ministry of Housing and Communal economy and the Ministry of Health of Ukraine.

4. Future activities of the NPD IWRM in Ukraine

Policy issues

The Steering Committee took note on the Concept Draft on implementation of State policy on adaptation of the water resources and ecosystems management to climate change, prepared by the State Committee on Water Management of Ukraine, what reflects the will of Ukraine to include the adaptation mechanism into water policy; and noted a lack of scenarios and models to assess the impact of climate change on water resources across the country and selected river basins at this time in Ukraine.

The Steering Committee emphasized the importance of continuing the NPD on IWRM process in Ukraine, with mandatory participation of all responsible on water ministries and departments to discuss jointly the problems and to develop possible solutions. It was proposed to consider the possibility of holding joint meetings and other events with the Steering Committee for the NPD on the Water Sector Reforming to discuss the financing of IWRM.

The Steering Committee was informed by Mr. Boris Minarik, a representative of the International Water Assessment Centre in Bratislava (IWAC), about the possibilities of supporting the NPD in Ukraine. Since ending the financing support of EU to the NPD on IWRM in Ukraine, IWAC can support the next meeting of the Steering Committee in 2011, the organizational and analytical work on the preparation of this meeting, as well as a trip to Slovakia of the representatives of ministries of Ukraine to exchange of experiences. In the future, IWAC is ready to finance a larger pilot project in the framework of the NPD on IWRM.

The Steering Committee was informed briefly by the European Union Delegation in Ukraine on the EU Twinning Programme, in the frame of which it is possible to exchange experiences on water resources management in the EU.

Policy packages

Steering Committee decided

4.1. to continue the NPD on IWRM process in Ukraine, with mandatory participation of all responsible ministries and departments to jointly discuss problems and develop possible solutions.

4.2. proposed to revise the Draft of the Concept on realization of State Policy on adaptation of water resources and ecosystems management to climate change, taking into account suggestions and comments of all stakeholders for its further implementation.



4.3. thanked IWAC representative for the proposal to support of the NPD in Ukraine and obligate the Working Group to prepare requested project proposals for the next meeting of NPD and invited participants to work on the joint projects with IWAC in Bratislava on study the European approach to river basin management, and water resources and ecosystems protection.

4.4. to suggest to the Working Group to prepare a proposal for funding under the EU Twinning Program.