

A.P.PETROV
Prof. Dr.Ec.Sc.

**TEAM OF SPECIALISTS
ON FOREST POLICY
IN EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA**

**34-th Session Joint FAO/
UNECE Working Party
26-30 March, 2012
Geneva**

ToS on FOREST POLICY IN EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA ACTIVITY

1. ToS has been established at the Inauguration Meeting in Budapest 5-6 march 2009
2. There were two working meetings (Budapest, 2009, Istanbul, 2010)
3. The Russia Institute of Continuous Education opened the website in English and Russian for communication
4. Annual reports were presented to Budapest.

SPECIFICS IN ToS ACTIVITY

1. The countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia have the different political systems and the different goals of their forest sector development
2. It is difficult to propose for discussion the common problems as compared with countries of the Western Europe.
3. It is difficult to establish the common language for communication (Russian is loosing, English is not used)
4. In most cases the nominated members of ToS are not professionals in Forest Policy
5. The main goal of ToS to contribute the sustainable forest management through effective forest policy has not achieved.

Questionnaire for Team of Specialists (results of analysis)

1. Questionnaire has been sent by e-mail to all members of ToS early January in English
2. There are only three replies:
leader
vice-leader
Mr. Sutter from Austria
3. The most members are indifferent to ToS activity

REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE

No Question	NAME				
	ANATOLY PETROV	JANA	MISHAEL	Average	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Position	ARICEF	Ministry	A.Federal Forest	
2	Of which ToS are you a member?	leader	vice leader		
3	How long have you been a member of this ToS? (years)	3	3	3	
4	In your position, do you have a direct influence on the implementation of the outcome of the ToS work in your country?				
	Anatoly P.	Unfortunately, only indirect influence through publications and training programmes.			
	JANA J.	Working in the Department for Forestry in the Ministry gives me an opportunity to directly submit ToS outcomes to the heads of the departments with elaboration on their link with the national and regional forest policies.			
	MISHAEL S.	Official delegate from Austria; indirect influence on decisions; close cooperation with the Ministry			

REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE

No Question	NAME	ANATOLY PETROV	JANA	MISHAEL	Average
1	2	3	4	5	6
5	What is your main motivation in participating in the work of the ToS?				
	Expert exchange of experiences and lessons learnt	5	5	4	4.7
	Input to policy dialogue	4	5	4	4.3
	Tangible outputs such as publications	5	4	4	4.3
	Exchange with other members of the same ToS	2	5	5	4.0
	Exchange with members of other ToS	2	5	2	3.0
	Contribution to the regional input at global level	1	5	3	3.0
	Receive input (guidance for implementation at national level)	1	5	2	2.7
	Capacity building (training of trainers)	5	5	1	3.7
	Contribution to the UNICE/FAO programme of work	3	4	3	3.3

REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE

No Question	NAME	ANATOLY PETROV	JANA	MISHAEL	Average
1	2	3	4	5	6
6	What is your present specific contribution to the ToS?				
	Leading the ToS	Yes	Yes	No	
	Actively participating in the ToS meetings	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Following the activities of ToS without active participation	No	No	No	No
	Contributing with own technical inputs/expertise	No	Yes	Yes	
	Co-organizing meetings as host	No	No	No	No
	Helping in dissemination of results (outputs) of ToS	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE

7	How are you organised at the national level in preparing the ToS meetings and sharing results at national level?	
	Anatoly P.	Close cooperation with experts from Federal Forest Agency, research and educational institutes
	JANA J.	All national contribution toward the work of the ToS are done in joint efforts with the national representatives (reports, questionnaires, presentations). Dissemination of the work of the ToS is done through reporting after each meeting to the Heads of the Department and Minister. The work of the ToS is presented also to interested stakeholders and their input to national reporting is included.
	MISHAEL S.	Close cooperation with relevant experts in the Ministry. Joint preparation of input
8	Do you think you are receiving sufficient support from your own country to participate in these teams? What kind of limitations has your team experienced as regards participation of team members in your events (insufficient funding, lack of members' interest etc.), if any?	
	Anatoly P.	No funds from federal authorities are available.
	JANA J.	Official letter signed by the Minister does delegating the membership into the work of the ToS. In the past period the support for participating on meetings was on high level, except when the travel costs are not covered. This is the result of the financial restrictions by the Government few years back caused by economic crisis. Other restrictions were lack of time from national members to contribute to the work of the ToS.
	MISHAEL S.	No funds were made available; funds had to be provided by our own Organization

REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE

10	How do you share information from the ToS work within your own country?				
	Anatoly P.	Participation in domestic conferences and other events. Publications in magazines and newspapers.			
	JANA J.	As mentioned above, dissemination of the work of the ToS is done through reporting after each meeting to the Heads of the Department and Minister. The work of the ToS is presented also to interested stakeholders and their input to national reporting is included.			
	MISHAEL S.	Email and meetings; primarily with Ministry and within our Organization			
11	What have been the resource implications to implement ToS work by your team? How much time and effort did you contribute to the ToS work? What about other resources?	10 days/year	10	10	
12	Would you consider language as a “critical problem” in your meetings, since ToS meetings do not normally benefit from full translation? If yes, what would you propose to mitigate this communication problem?				
	A.P.	Language barriers is critical not for me, but for other members of ToS. The country has to delegate the experts to ToS with English.			
	JANA J.	Not at all for the Russian speaking countries, since all meeting are simultaneously translated. The problem is for other Eastern European countries members not speaking English.			
	MISHAEL S.	The language barriers is splitting into two groups (which to a certain extent have known each			

REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE

No Question	NAME	ANATOLY PETROV	JANA	MISHAEL	Average
1	2	3	4	5	6
13	How do you assess the leader/guidance of your ToS?				
	Overall guidance	3	4	2	3
	Sharing of information and stepwise results	3	5	2	3.3
	Scheduling of planning events	1	5	4	3.3
	Reporting / dissemination of results of ToS	1	5	2	2.7
	Organization of events	2	5	4	3.7
	Output / result of the ToS	2	4	2	2.7
	Reporting to UNICE/FAO	1	5	?	

REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE

14	Do you think that the ToS mandate, as expressed in the ToR, is clear for the team leader/co-leaders concerning planning, operational, communication matters, including reporting to UNECE/FAO?	
	Anatoly P.	The mandate is unclear to lead the ToS. There are not rights and funds to lead the ToS effectively.
	JANA J.	Yes, even that further improvement could be done in communication matters especially in sharing information on the web site that the ToS is using.
	MISHAEL S.	
15	Are procedures for reporting back to UNECE/FAO clear enough? If not, how could they be improved?	
	A.P.	Existing reporting system is not effective/ It looks very formal
	JANA J.	Yes.
	MISHAEL S.	Establish reporting requirements. Discuss reporting obligations by each participant; ask for written confirmation. Manage implementation
16	In your opinion, which topics/themes of the ToS were appropriate and successful (=strong points of ToS) and should be continued for 2014-2017?	
	Anatoly P.	ToS exists only as formal institute. The members of the ToS have no obligations and stimulus
	JANA J.	exchange information and experiences on forest policy formulation and implementation, identify priority issues in EE CA countries, promote a transparent regional discussion of priorities and best practices in reforming policies and institutions in the sector, integrate countries into existing policy networks, regional workshops on commonly defined topics
	MISHAEL S.	As to my current information I believe that the ToS is existing only on paper. The start was promising but commitment of participants was weak. No communication on the very ToS, especially about to-dos and next steps

REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE

17	Is all needed expertise in the ToS present, or is other expertise needed (may be from other sectors or disciplines) to better carry out the task of the ToS?	
	ANATOLY P.	The country experts have to propose the content of ToS. There are priorities in the content. The main output is to create the conditions to share countries experience in Forest Policy
	JANA J.	Advanced learning and discussion with international experts about forest policy developments and emerging topics in the region, their activities and their possible support to eastern European and central Asian countries is needed in the future work of the ToS. Straighten the cooperation with other ToS's on specific issues for the region should be a priority task for the future
	MISHAEL S.	This depends on the envisioned output; which today is unclear for me
18	Do you consider exchanges and discussions within the ToS useful?	
	ANATOLY P.	The extent of discussion depends on professional abilities of experts. Unfortunately these abilities are rather low. It is reasonable to establish the criterias for experts to be delegated to the ToS.
	JANA J.	Yes, especially in the field of institutional reform and policy implementation since most of the problems in the participating countries are similar.
	MISHAEL S.	The first meeting in Budapest was worth participating and a good means of a common dialogue. The second meeting in Istanbul was nice but produced a disappointing low level of tangible results. Real communication and exchange on in 4 eyes telephone meetings.

REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE

20	Do you receive feedbacks/comments concerning the disseminated outputs, whether printed or online, of your team? If so, how do you discuss and take them into consideration for the subsequent team outputs?	
	ANATOLY P.	Unfortunately there is no opportunity to receive feedbacks inside of the ToS
	JANA J.	After meetings detailed reports are done and send electronically to all present members of the Team for their comments. The information of the work of the Team is updated on the Secretariat's web site.
	MISHAEL S.	Feedback only during the two meetings or in actively on the telephone
21	In your opinion, how representative is the composition of the team TC/EFC region-wise (e.g., in terms of how many of the countries in the region are represented; or what portion (forestland-wise or area-wise) of the region is represented by members of the team)?	
	ANATOLY P.	Many country's experts are not professional in the field of forest policy
	JANA J.	Every country in the EE and CA region is invited to participate into the work of the Team no matter of the percentage of forest land
	MISHAEL S.	The team composition would have a great potential; however this potential was not fully used
22	Do you consider the current level of representation fair and satisfactory? If not, what sort of action do you think should be taken?	
	ANATOLY P.	UNICE/FAO has to establish the professional demands to country's experts
	JANA J.	Yes.
	MISHAEL S.	There are no activities which I would be aware of

REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE

25	How “balanced” is your team in respect of the members’ affiliations (government experts, university experts and NGOs’ experts)?	
	Anatoly P.	The members of the ToS have to be close to the government institutions in order to have possibility to implement ToS recommendations.
	JANA J.	Team is going through a learning process and developed for exchanges of experience, play an important role. The work of the Team since 2009 had advanced significantly, but more expertise is needed from both scientific community and governmental level.
	MISHAEL S.	The team is comprised by country representatives, which primarily are administration or close to the administration. External experts and NGOs have once been invited in Istanbul for direct involvement

REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE

No Question	NAME	ANATOLY PETROV	JANA	MISHAEL	Average
1	2	3	4	5	6
23	Would you say there is regional bias within the team? (e.g. too much emphasis on an individual country or a subregion, which overshadows subregions that need the attention of the Team?)	No	No	No	No
24	Do you think that the composition of the team is critical with respect to the affiliation (government, universities or NGO's) of the member specialists?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
26	Do you consider the level of "expertise" in your team as a whole sufficient for your work?	3	3	4	
27	How do you assess of the support by the UNECE/FAO secretariat to your ToS?				
	Overall guidance	3	3	4	3.3
	Providing timely information and documents	3	4	4	3.7
	Technical inputs/advice	4	3	4	3.7
	Preparation of minutes	5	4	5	4.7
	Organization of events	5	4	5	4.7
	Guidance on reporting	3	3	2	2.7
	Distribution of ToS results	2	3	3	2.7

ToS ACTIVITY SHOULD BE IMPROVED

1. It is reasonable to establish the mandate of ToS members (nomination procedure, demands to the professional position, rights and responsibilities)
2. Annual plans of ToS activity should be prepared in communication with Secretariat
3. Regular reporting should be based on the events of annual plans
4. Centralized funds are needed for the ToS meetings

Forest Policy of Russian Federation

1. Federal Forest Agency initiated the process of National Forest Policy elaboration.
2. There are procedures to use as much as possible the Policy draft public discussion
3. It is expected that Forest Policy as legal act will be approved to the end of 2012.