



3rd RBMP Workshop on Setting Environmental Objectives and Development of Programme of Measures

Minsk, Belarus

6 October, 2014

Venue: Conference Hall, Hotel Planeta
31 Pobeditelei Avenue
Minsk, Belarus
www.hotelplaneta.by

Meeting Report

The 3rd River Basin Management Planning (RBMP) workshop was held on October 6, 2014 in Minsk, Belarus back to back to the 3rd Regional Steering Committee meeting next day. The main objective of the workshop was to assist the beneficiary institutions and project RBMP contractors for development of the RBMP Phase-2 deliverables, namely for establishment Environmental Quality Objectives (EQOs) and development Programmes of Measures (PoMs) on basin-wide and national levels.

The draft agenda of the workshop, list of participants and presentations are attached to the document as Annexes.

Session 1: Opening of the Workshop and Setting the Scene

Mr Serghey Zavyalov, Head of the Department of Regulation of Pressure on Atmospheric Air and Water Resources of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of Belarus, who at the same time is the Head of Belarus NCC and member of the Regional Steering Committee for the Project, made opening remarks on behalf of the host institution. Mr Ivan Davidov, Project Director of the Human Dynamics Consortium and Mr Timothy Turner, EPIRB Team Leader also made welcoming remarks on behalf of the project. After introduction of participants, the workshop approved the draft Agenda with no changes and appointed Mr Zavyalov as the chairperson.

After the opening remarks EPIRB Deputy Team Leader Mr Zurab Jincharadze presented the objectives of the meeting, setting the scene before the specific presentations and outlining the achievements towards the development of RBMPs and expected workshop outcomes.

The EPIRB Senior Non-Key Basin Management Expert Ms Birgit Vogel presented Setting of Environmental Objectives (Annex 3, pgs. 1-18), a specifically developed guidance document for the EPIRB project (Draft Guidance Document on the Development of Programme of Measures and the Achievement of the Environmental Objectives According to the EU WFD). Ms Vogel paid particular attention to the general RBMP planning process where accurate setting and achieving the Environmental Objectives, in combination with Programmes of Measures, is critical for the overall success. In this regard, the project guidance document emphasises means of setting less stringent objectives for the first six-year planning cycle for those EPIRB countries which have to have WFD compliant status assessment in place by 2021, as well as to achieve moderate status by 2021 and good status by 2027. Ms Vogel also highlighted the need to consider Exemptions in accordance to the WFD Article 4, when achievement of EOs is not possible for different sensible reasons.

The follow up break-out group discussion focused on general questions arising from the presentation, namely on approach of setting environmental objectives, ways to implement these objectives, timing for their implementation and next steps. Afterwards, the country teams briefly presented their suggestions how to improve the guidance.

Session 2: Development of Programme of Measures: short and long term

After the short discussions session, the workshop resumed with the second part of the Guidance Document presentation (Annex 3, pgs.19-41). Ms Birgit Vogel overviewed basic principles of the Programme of Measures as key mechanism to achieve environmental objectives in order to reach, improve and maintain good water status in full accordance to the WFD Articles 11 after taking account of the analyses required under Article 5. She highlighted the Basic (obligatory) and Supplementary (optional) Measures that the EU member countries are required to fulfil, but could be difficult to align fully for non-member countries. As a reasonable solution Ms Vogel presented the following Five-Step proposal for development of PoMs in pilot basins of the EPIRB countries:

Step 1: Set environmental objectives for each water body (consider exemptions to reach environmental objectives) based on (i) risk assessment, (ii) significant pressures;

Step 2: Align national legislation that correspond to the EU Directives to set basic measures;

Step 3: Identify basic and supplementary measures to achieve objectives. Focus on specific/priority EU Directives first of all: Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC), Nitrate Directive (91/676/EEC), Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EEC), Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC);

Step 4: Align (i) Basic, (ii) Soft Supplementary and (iii) Supplementary Measures to the four 6-year planning cycles. First cycle should focus on measures toward WFD compliance;

Step 5: Align cost estimates to the identified measures.

Each Step was then discussed in detail and followed by presentations of the country teams on their preliminary findings to develop Programmes of Measures in the pilot basins (Annex 3, pgs. 42-147). The presentations were based on the PoM template that the Project developed and proposed to the RBMP contractors. It contained the approach, criteria and results of setting of environmental objectives and programme of measures for each pilot basin. The teams have presented these criteria for every Water Body that failed to be identified as 'at risk', or 'possibly at risk' criteria and ways to achieve the objectives by applying basic and supplementary measures.

Session 3: Economic Assessment and Monitoring Programme Design

Second half of the workshop was dedicated to the introduction of the economic analysis and progress review of the design of Monitoring Programmes for the pilot basins.

Introduction to the WFD Economic Assessment and overview of the approach, criteria and implementation steps towards cost-effectiveness analysis for the EPIRB countries was made by Mr Zurab Jincharadze, DTL (Annex 3, pgs. 148-167) . Besides basic elements of the Economic Analysis and review of the WFD Articles responsible for it, Mr Jincharadze presented implementation roadmap for economic analysis, including three major steps and detailed implementation scheme. In addition, the key questions to be addressed and simplified version of the EPIRB specific cost-estimation technique for the first cycle of the six-year Programme of Measures (up to 2021) were presented to the audience.

The following session on design of Monitoring Programmes in the pilot basins focused on general monitoring principles and categories of monitoring: Chemical Status monitoring, Ecological Status monitoring (including hydromorphological monitoring) and Groundwater monitoring. Mr Paul Buijs, EPIRB Senior Non-Key Chemical Expert, made an introductory presentation reminding the participants about main purpose and design of monitoring under the EU WFD, including key locations, parameters to be measured and sampling frequency for Surveillance, Operational and Investigative types of monitoring (Annex 3, pgs. 168-176). Mr Buijs



discussed in detail the necessary steps and parameters for assessment of Chemical Status of surface water bodies, focusing on key locations and frequency, and the 'Priority Substances and certain other pollutants' to be measured once a month under the new amendment of EU Directive 2013/39/EC. However, he also highlighted the limiting factors that could complicate full scale monitoring practice for chemical status assessment, namely limited routine monitoring data for 'Priority Substances', need for more complex Pressure/Impact Analysis and Risk Assessment, laboratory capacities in the project countries, high cost for frequent sampling, etc. (Annex 3, pgs.177-186)

Mr Peter Rončák, the EPIRB Senior Non-Key Monitoring Expert, presented Monitoring Programme Design of Surface Waters for Ecological Status Assessment (Annex 3, pgs. 187-205). He proposed the steps for establishing three different types of monitoring and prerequisites for it, specifically focusing to the (i) selection of sampling locations with the *type specific reference conditions*, based of Biological Quality Elements (BQEs) and (ii) representativeness of the sampling locations on *macro-* and *micro-levels*. Mr Rončák also discussed the details of selection procedures of potential locations for Surveillance and Operation monitoring, indicative quality elements (biological, general physico-chemical and hydromorphological) to be examined and sampling frequency for assessing ecological status.

Groundwater Monitoring Programme Design was presented by Mr Bernardas Paukstys, EPIRB Key Expert (Annex 3, pgs. 206-218). Mr Paukstys highlighted the WFD and GWD (Groundwater Directive) compliant monitoring programmes that the EU member countries are obliged to fulfil: i) quantitative monitoring; ii) surveillance monitoring; iii) operational monitoring; iv) investigative monitoring; v) monitoring of drinking water protection areas; vi) pollution prevention monitoring; vii) observations of surface-groundwater interaction. He then overviewed progress towards the development of GW monitoring programmes for pilot basins of the EPIRB countries. For the existing data gaps and lack of GW monitoring infrastructure Mr Paukstys suggested to use the following sources:

- **Operational monitoring and drinking water protection area monitoring** shall be performed by the water supply companies which abstract $>100 \text{ m}^3/\text{day}$ for human consumption;
- **Prevent & limit monitoring** shall be performed by the industries with polluting activities;
- **Surface-groundwater interaction** shall be observed in all monitoring types;
- Changes in the **national legislation** of all countries have to be made in order to oblige economic entities to organise operational monitoring.

At the end, Mr Paukstys also reviewed parameters and components to be measured under the Surveillance Monitoring, as well as sampling frequency for main anions and cations, trace elements, pesticides, POPs and observation of groundwater levels.

Meeting summary and closure

Results of the workshop, progress made towards the development of the RBMPs and Monitoring Programmes' Design were summarised and appreciated by the project Team Leader, Tim Turner, and key beneficiaries attending the meeting. As the conclusion remarks, Mr Turner congratulated the project staff and RBMP contractors for successful results and expressed hope that the teams will accelerate delivery of the PoM and economic analysis which are to be submitted to EPIRB for comment before the 4th and last RBMP Workshop scheduled in December 08, 2014 in Kiev, Ukraine.