



## MINUTES OF THE MEETING (11:00- 13:30)

### EPIRB 3<sup>rd</sup> National Coordination Committee for Ukraine

31 July, 2014

Venue: Arhus Centre

Mytropolita Vasylya Lypkivskogo 35 Street, Kyiv, Ukraine

#### Workshop background and objectives

EPIRB 3<sup>rd</sup> National Coordination Committee Meeting for Ukraine was held on July 31 in Kyiv, Ukraine. The objectives of the meeting were the following:

- to report to the NCC members and other national and international stakeholders on the results of the project implementation to the date;
- to present planned activities for the next reporting period and up to the end of the project;
- to discuss proposed Pilot Projects in Ukraine to address selected Programme of Measures of RBMP implementation.

#### Agenda

Agenda of the EPIRB 3<sup>rd</sup> National Coordination Committee for Ukraine can be found in Annex 1.

#### Participants

##### NCC Members and Representatives of the Ministry of Environment and nature resources of Ukraine (MENR)

- **Ms. Oksana Voloshko-Demkyv**, adviser of Minister of Environment and nature resources of Ukraine
- **Ms. Nataliia Zagurska**, Deputy Head of Deputy Director of Legal and International Department
- **Mr. Mikhail Tomachyn**, Head of Nature resources Department
- **Mr. Alexander Bon`**, Head of water resources division
- **Ms. Nataliia Pyshna**, Head of the Department of accounting and monitoring of groundwater State Enterprises 'Geoinform' Geology Services of Ukraine
- **Ms. Galyna Serova**, Director of Arhus Centre of MENR

##### Human Dynamics Consortium:

- **Ms. Nadya Boneva**, project manager

##### EPIRB team:

- **Mr. Tim Turner**, team leader (TL)
- **Ms. Nataliia Zakorchevna**, River basin management expert of Ukraine

##### Regional Environmental Center for Central and Easter Europe – REC



- **Ms Imola Koszta**, NKE Expert
- **Ms Magdolna Toth Nagy**, Senior Expert, project consultant

### Summary of discussions – brief overview

In his welcome address, Mr. Mikhail Tomakhin assured the project representatives of continued support of their activities and wished them successes in meeting the objectives set.

Mr. Timothy Turner made two presentations to update the meeting participants on the key objectives of the project, their relevance to requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive, major achievements of the project in the course of its implementation in six partner countries of the project, as well as planned actions for the implementation period up to the project completion.

*Brief description of the project:* "The project reinforces current actions in environmental protection and water resources management, supported by previous EU funded trans-boundary projects in the region in terms of cooperation as well as convergence towards the principles of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD), by joint development of River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) in selected pilot river basins of the wider Black Sea region.

*The overall objective of the project* is to improve water quality in the trans-boundary river basins of the wider Black Sea region and Belarus.

*Specific project objectives:* to improve availability and quality of data on the ecological, chemical, and hydro-morphological status of trans-boundary river basins including groundwater; to develop River Basin Management Plans for selected river basins/sub-river basins according to the requirements of the WFD.

Notwithstanding some delays at the initial stages of the project, now, the project implementation activities gained a considerable momentum. River basin analysis activities in the project countries were completed, their national legislative and institutional frameworks were analysed in terms of development and implementation of WFD-compliant policies, capacity of national laboratories to conduct necessary monitoring was evaluated and relevant capacity building recommendations were provided, a series of workshops and trainings on laboratory quality control were held. In the recent year, activities in selected river basins were completed for identification, delineation and typology of water bodies, including groundwater. Relevant reports were produced - the reports are publicly available at the project web-site.

A number of field surveys were conducted on surface and groundwater water bodies and some initial results on environmental status of water bodies were already produced. Initial works were launched for development of River Basin Management Plans. To this end, implementing organisations were contracted to conduct these activities in individual countries - the contractors have already produced reports on initial stages of RBMPs development (analysis of human pressures on river basins and assessment of risks of failing to attain "good" status of water bodies according to WFD requirements).

All activities in project countries are implemented with systemic support of key experts of the project, who have already developed a number of guideline manuals for all stages of the project implementation, namely: field survey manuals on sampling for chemical analysis, hydrobiological research, study of groundwater water bodies and assessment of hydromorphological alterations; manuals on risk and impact analysis; manuals on development of monitoring programs, etc. (all these manuals are available at the



project web-site). Even a video manual was produced - the video shows a project expert who explains stages of hydrogeological survey of GW wells in line with WFD requirements.

The project particularly focuses on supporting countries in fulfilment of their commitments under UN ECE Water Convention and the Danube Convention, on public participation in discussions at all stages of development of River Basin Management Plans.

Mr Timothy Turner also outlined project work plan and tasks for the nearest six months - the most important ones include:

- further field surveys in pilot river basins,
- Organisation of the next meeting of the Project Steering Committee to be held in Minsk (October 6, 2014),
- a number of hydromorphology and hydrobiology trainings and workshops for national experts,
- Development of River Basin Management Plans for capacity building of water management organisations in pilot basins.

Besides that, a tender procedure should be organised soon to select a contractor for implementation of a pilot demonstration project as a step to improve environmental situation in the pilot basin.

Ms Natalia Zakorchevna particularly focused on activities that were implemented in Ukraine in the reporting period. Experts in the sphere of water resources management (from basin water resources management directorates of the State Water Agency, the Central Geophysical Observatory of the State Hydrometeorological Centre, the Ukrainian Geological Company SE of the State Geological Service of Ukraine) were involved into field surveys, trainings, and discussions on stages of development of RBMPs for Upper Dnieper and Prut basins. The first meeting was held (and the second one is being planned) with representatives of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) on matters of transferring the data gathered in the course of the project implementation in the Prut river basin to ICPDR for the Danube Basin Analysis that should be completed in this year by all Parties of the Danube Convention. Intensive works are under way for development of RBMPs for Upper Dnieper and Prut river basins - the works are implemented by UNENGO MAMA-86, contracted by Human Dynamics. Meetings with stakeholder organisations and the general public were conducted in the river basins to inform stakeholders on initial results of pressures and impacts analysis for water bodies in the basins, to discuss the draft communication strategy for public/stakeholders participation in discussion of River Basin Management Plans and methodologies for development of such strategies for any river basin.

In the course of discussions on the project results and plans for the nearest future, Mr Mikhail Tomakhin stressed that it is particularly important to maintain close cooperation with MoE now. Legislative and structural changes in the sphere of water policies need a prompt response. The actions planned by MoE only six months ago now already need adjustments to align them to objectives set by the new Ukrainian Government. Besides that, as Ukraine has signed the Association Agreement with the EU, the project objectives are now becoming embedded into a legislative context. In addition, the project needs support for development of underlying legislative framework for river basin management. Unfortunately, so far, even functioning of administrative territorial units of Ukraine lacks a sufficient legislative framework, while river basins do not follow administrative boundaries. So far, nobody knows whether oblast-level state administrations would continue to exist, whether oblast-level directorates of ecology and natural resources would be re-subordinated to MoE again. Now, a fairly relevant issue is associated with entities in charge of River Basin Management Plans at the local level.



Mr Aleksandr Bon proposed to initiate regular meetings in the Ministry to ensure swift response to changes in the country, he emphasised that - without alterations in mainstream activities and ToR of the project - it is necessary to adjust current activities of the project and MoE can guarantee provision of such assistance. Timothy Turner asked Mr Bon to put his request in writing.

Ms Oksana Voloshko-Demkiv asked Ms Nadya Boneva, the project director, and Mr Timothy Turner, the project team leader on appropriateness of participation of Consortium members in implementation of project activities. Her second question was associated with procedural issues pertaining to tenders for implementation of certain project activities that stipulate allocation of project funds to local organisations - she asked why the Call for Proposals on development of River Basin Management Plans was posted on the project web-site, while it was not posted on the web-site of the Ministry of Ecology of Ukraine, as such arrangements seriously limited opportunities for participation of all stakeholders from the range of research and consultancy organisations in these activities.

Ms Nadya Boneva emphasized the transparent procedure applied in organisation of the tendering process for the services within the project. The Consortium led by HD shared the responsibility with all consortium partners in order to strength the good collaboration between all actors involved. She explained that the EU requirements stipulated within the PRAG were followed, but also national context and involvement of local stakeholders in the beneficiary countries were strongly considered. Ms Natalia Zakorchevna explained that the tender invitation was not posted on the MoE web-site in relation with the turbulent political situation six months ago and she supported the proposal of Ms Voloshko-Demkiv to post the invitation for tenderers for implementation of a demonstration project in the Prut basin on MoE web-site, accompanied with a link to the web-site of Environmental Protection of International River Basins Project: <http://blacksea-riverbasins.net/> In addition, Ms Zakorchevna noted that a great number of local experts with necessary expertise for implementation of project tasks were involved into development of River Basin Management Plans. They include representatives of Dniester-Prut, Dnieper and Desna BUVRs, the Central Geophysical Observatory, the Institute of Hydrobiology of the National Acad. Sci., T.G. Shevchenko Kiev National University, the R&D Institute of Municipal Services, the Carpathian National Park, Ivano-Frankovsk Oil and Gas Institute, "KievVodokanal" and "ChernigoVodocanal" Water Utilities.

Summing up the discussion, Mr Timothy Turner thanked for a fruitful discussion and assured members of the National Coordination Committee and all participants, that he personally and all project experts are open to communication with the Ministry. As earlier, all materials will be provided to NCC members and all project stakeholders.

Participants of NCC meeting were emphasized also that there is a positive attitude from behalf of the Ministry towards the project and there is a good will from both sides for closer cooperation. Was achieved agreement that the important announcements to be done on both - project and Ministry website (not only the tender procedures) especially the draft of RBMP for stakeholder consultation.



## MINUTES OF THE MEETING (14:00 – 18:45)

### Upper Dnieper Pilot Basin - Stakeholder Consultation Meeting

31 July, 2014

Aarhus Center in the building of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine  
Vasilya Lipkivskogo Street 35, Kyiv

#### Agenda

Agenda of the Upper Dnieper Pilot Basin Stakeholder Consultation meeting is attached to the minutes (Annex 1).

#### Participants

Signed List of Participants from the meeting is attached to the minutes (Annex 2).

#### Objectives:

- to present the necessary background information and the preliminary overview of the important water management issues for the Upper Dnieper pilot basin;
- to collect stakeholders' feedbacks concerning the identification of the most important water management issues;
- to support the development of the River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) by discussing on the preliminary identified significant water management issues for the relevant pilot river basin.

#### Summary of discussions

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##### Welcome – Opening remarks

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After a brief opening by Ms. Nataliia Zakorchevna, EPIRB Country Water Management Expert (CWME), Ukraine, Ms. *Oksana Volosko-Demkiv*, adviser to the Minister, MENR, opened the meeting. In her opening remarks she welcomed the participants and emphasized the Ministry's interest in international cooperation regarding water management and RBM planning, and the commitment to support the project activities and achieve good results.

The opening remarks were followed by the round of introduction of the participants. During the introductory session, Ms. Nadya Boneva, Project Manager of EPIRB project, introduced briefly the project and apologized for not being able to attend the meeting until the end.

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#### I. INFORMATION SESSION: SETTING THE SCENE

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The first session of the meeting, focusing on providing background information on the project and on the identified important water management issues, was chaired by Ms. Nataliia Zakorchevna.

Ms. Magdolna Toth Nagy, Senior Expert/Consultant, REC, introduced the purpose and importance of the consultation meeting and started her presentation with a survey on the current knowledge of participants concerning the requirements of WFD related to public participation. Following this, she referred to the integrated Water Resource Management (IMRM) principles and the obligations under the international agreements, such as the Aarhus Convention and other UNECE Conventions as well as under the national legislation. She outlined the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) concerning public



information and consultation and the phases when participation of the stakeholders is needed as a minimum in form of consultations and active involvement. (*For more information see Annex 3*).

Ms. Oksana Volosko-Demkiv was interested in the awareness of the participants concerning the project and its activities, such as tenders announced for pilot projects etc. She mentioned that link of the project website will be posted on the Ministry of Environmental Protection' website, in order to support broader access and dissemination of information.

Mr. Tim Turner, EPIRB Team Leader, presented the overview of the EPIRB project, main activities and the results achieved in the last six months. A proposal was made to use also the Aarhus Center for dissemination of information so stakeholders could receive project related information via the Aarhus Center and its website.

Ms. Anna Tsvietkova, NGO "MAMA-86", provided an overview on the draft Pressures and Impact analysis report; methodology used and outcomes of the risk assessment process. She pointed out that the current national standards are less severe than the requirements of WFD, resulting in lack of data in case of certain elements. (*For more information see Annex 3*)

During the Q&A session the issue of the ambitious objective to have the RBMP approved by the government was raised. It was highlighted that Ukraine lacks experience in drafting RBMPs and not all national experts are acquainted with the structure of the plans. Information was requested concerning the reference/source documents used for the hydro-morphological assessment, and what methodology will be used for the hydro-morphological assessment of the Kiev reservoir. Mr. Tim Turner explained that gap filling surveys will be carried out in October, 2014. This survey will be focusing on the chemical status at strategic points in the basin, hotspots. Also, undertaking of a limited number of hydro-morphological samples is planned. In the case the Kiev reservoir represents one of the key points, it will be included as much as possible.

Ms. Nataliia Zakorchevna pointed out that the preliminary assessment was conducted by an international expert, and all available data, maps made available data from different departments have been used. In case of heavily modified bodies, only good potential can be reached.

Mr. Sergey Afanasyev, from the National Academy of science Institute of Hydrobiology, outlined the methodological point of view how the heavily modified water bodies should be identified and the importance of the hydrobiology in this step as the classification status of a water body can be assigned only after the hydrobiological assessment has been done.

Mr. Tim Turner clarified that the purpose of the today's meeting is to collect stakeholders input for the analysis of pressures and impacts. The RBMP will be developed in 6 months time. He confirmed that the monitoring and hydrobiological monitoring is at the 'heart' of the WFD and indicated that the other activity (Activity 1) of the project is focusing in supporting development of biological and ecological status monitoring systems: identifying reference sites for each water body type(done in 2013), calculating ecological quality ratios and establishing an ecological status classification. He draws attention that these systems are not ready yet and at moment the macro invertebrates have been checked, but there has been no look at the phytoplankton, zooplankton and fishes. He encouraged the participants to look at the project website and/or contact the national CWME for detailed information.



## II. WORKING SESSION

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Ms. Imola Koszta held a presentation focusing on the significant water management issues in the light of the WFD. On the other hand, in her introduction set the basis for the Working Group discussion. *(For more information see Annex 3)*

The WGs were asked to address the below questions:

1. *Do you agree that these are the key causes of water management problems?*
  2. *Are there other significant water management issues that have not been considered?*
  3. *Which are the top 3 SWMIs facing the Upper Dnieper Pilot Basin (Ukraine)? (Please rank them, 1 being the highest priority and 3 the lowest).*
  4. *How do you think these issues could be tackled/addressed?*
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## III. BUILDING COMMON UNDERSTANDING

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Ms. Nataliia Zakorchevna, EPIRB CWMEUkraine, reported to the plenary on the results of the discussion from Group B, Hydromorphology alterations. She pointed out that even though, based on current information, the change of water level down-stream of Kiev reservoir it is not posing a significant impact, it is considered as a potential risk. It was suggested to collect relevant samples during the next survey round and double-check the oxygen regime and the physical and chemical characteristics, in order to have a better understanding on the impact. She pointed out that the draft analysis report takes into account only the data concerning riverbank fortification around Kiev reservoir, as no data was received concerning other river engineering works. On this topic during the discussions agreement was reached to obtain additional information from the experts who are periodically mapping the change of relevant riverbanks. The working group discussed also the impact of possible future navigation on the Upper Dnieper, namely capability of the rivers to accommodate riverboats.

The working group prioritized as the most important issue the illegal constructions and housing works on the riverbank, preventing natural flow, causing change of natural riverbank and the artificial land works carried out on the riverbanks. In addition, the issue of the non-native beavers was mentioned, appearing as a consequence of the amelioration works and water chestnut trees which are included in the Red Book among species with risk for extinction. The group discussion also revealed the existence of an artificially built island in the surroundings of Kiev city, which should be taken in consideration in the PoM. In transboundary context the group identified as an issue the cadastral boundaries on the Dnieper River between Ukraine and Belarus due to the change of riverbanks. Concerning this, attention was drawn to a study carried out together by Poland and Ukraine concerning Vistula River.

Ms. Nataliia Chizhmakova, NGO "MAMA-86", presented to the plenary the results of the discussion from Group A, Pollution (Point and diffuse sources):

1. The working group identified in addition the below issues:
  - Climate change;
  - Radioactive pollution;
  - Invasive species;
  - Microbiological pollution;
  - Types of land use;
  - Military sites;
  - Extraction of natural resources/mining (coal, oil, sand, etc.).



2. The working group recommended visualisation of the pollution sites/areas, natural parks and of the results of the draft Analysis report by using GIS maps. Also, it was pointed out that the Ramsar Convention should be taken in consideration, including the existence of an eco-network. Establishment of river bank protection zones, especially in those areas where drinking water is abstracted, should be included in the Programme of Measures and ecological passports should be issued for such water bodies. Assistance in approximation with EU legislation concerning basin management is needed in order to meet the deadlines set by the Association Agreement. Water resources Monitoring reforms is needed and raising of public awareness, mainly of the broad public, is important.
3. Among the priorities the below issues were identified in order of importance:
  - viable monitoring system of water bodies;
  - targeted point sources of pollution and diffuse sources, especially pollution from highways(eg. heavy metals: Pb, Ni, Zn etc.);
  - Securing of financial resources;
  - Identification of incentives, linked to the availability of funds.

Ms. Nataliia Chizhmakova emphasized that the working group concluded that more focus should be put on monitoring and adequate translation of the WFD monitoring guidelines is essential.

In the discussion session it was mentioned that there are no significant transboundary issues with Belarus in the Dnieper River. Furthermore, it was suggested that a separate working group should discuss the biological issues (Ramsar Convention, Natura 2000, etc.), as currently this was partly done by the working group focusing on Pollution. In addition, it was highlighted that the monitoring of ecological status is not existing in Ukraine, there are no governmental institutions in place that could perform these tasks. In addition, currently there is no legislation on monitoring, as well as it would be important to distinguish the different types of monitoring. It was suggested to take into consideration as diffuse pollution sources the possible pollution, which might come from power plants using coal instead of gas due to the current political situation in the country.

Mr. Turner pointed out that Ukraine has to comply also with the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive which implies to meet the discharge standards for municipal waste water and priority substances, and these are the issues that should be tackled. It was reported by participants that 95% of companies avoid the law requirements. Mr. Tim Turner added that treatment processes applied by the companies give a clue on the quality of discharges and that the standards should be obeyed.

Furthermore, it was suggested to include in the Programme of Measures the task of preparing the guidelines on monitoring system, preferably also in Ukrainian, to fill the gaps and improve understanding of a comprehensive monitoring system. Mr. Tim Turner explained that in the framework of the project Guidelines on the chemical status and hydro-morphological monitoring will be ready in September. Concerning hydrobiological monitoring separate proposals will be prepared for ecological and biological status classification system, to be published in January 2015.

Ms. Imola Koszta informed the participants that the draft report will be uploaded on the project website and comments are welcomed also in the coming period. She draw attention to the Communication Strategy and Plan, the project Newsletter and the recently developed e-learning module on Groundwater sampling.

Ms. Magdolna Toth Nagy thanked the participants for the active debate and informed them that the comments will be taken into account by the RBMP consultants. In case there are any further comments, these



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are more than welcomed and should be sent by e-mail. She also asked for support and suggestions on who should be included in the local stakeholder network and how they could be better reached and informed. She reminded that the next consultation meeting will be held on the draft RBM plan, in spring next year.