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Mission Report

RBA Start-up Mission for the Upper Dnieper Pilot Basin, Belarus

Dates: 14-15 November, 2012

Venues:

- 1) Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of Belarus - MNREP
- 2) Republican Centre of Radiation Control and Environmental Monitoring - RCRCEM
- 3) Republican Unitary Enterprise "Central Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources" - CRICUW
- 4) Republican Unitary Enterprise "Belarus Research Geological Exploration Institute" – BRGEI
- 5) Republican Hydrometeorological Centre – RHMC

Participants:

EPIRB Project Team

Mr Zurab Jincharadze, KE2 - River Basin Management Expert / Deputy Team Leader

Mr Bernardas Paukstys, KE5 - Groundwater Expert

Ms Tatjana Kolcova, KE4 - Hydro-morphology Expert

Mr Alexandr Stankevich, CWME for Belarus, Head of Radiation Control and Environmental Monitoring Centre

MNREP

Mr Sergei Zavyalov, Head of Regulation of Impact on Atmospheric Air and Water Resources Department

Mr Oleg Maksiuta, Director of Department of Hydrometeorology

MNREP sub-ordinated institutions

Ms Inna Rusaya, Deputy Head, RCRCEM

Mr Gennadij Tishchykau, Head of Ecological Service, RCRCEM

Mr Ihar Tsishchykau, Leading Engineer and Chemist, Division of Surface Waters Monitoring, RCRCEM

Mr Vladimir Korneev, Head of Department of Water Monitoring and Cadaster, CRICUW

Ms Elena Bogodziash, Coordinator of International Projects, CRICUW

Mr Andrei Kovkhuto, General Director, BRGEI

Ms Olga Berezko, Head of Department of Hydrogeology and Groundwater Monitoring, BRGEI

Ms Olga Vasniova, Hydrogeologist, Department of Hydrogeology and Groundwater Monitoring, BRGEI

Mr Jurij Lesnychij, Head of Division of Hydrology and State Water Cadaster, RHMC

ENPI Result Oriented Monitoring Mission

Ms Katherina Pirozhenko, Monitoring Expert

1. Objective and task of the mission, and project activity/ies to which the mission will contribute

Objectives: Objective of the mission was to support the local CWME and RBA implementation team for the startup of the Phase 1 of the study; to evaluate the level of existing information for the River Basin Analysis (RBA), discuss cooperation with the local institutions and on-going water related activities in Belarus.

Project activities: The mission will contribute to the Activity 2.1.2 – River Basin Analysis

2. Outline the programme of the mission: meetings held, assessment made, workshop provided etc.

14.11.12

11:00 - 12:00 Meeting at Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of Belarus



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- 12:30 - 14:00 Meeting at Republican Centre of Radiation Control and Environmental Monitoring
- 15:30 - 16:30 Republican Unitary Enterprise “Central Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources”

15.11.12

- 10:00 - 11:30 Meetings at Republican Unitary Enterprise “Belarus Research Geological Exploration Institute”
- 12:00 - 13:30 Meeting at Republican Centre of Radiation Control and Environmental Monitoring with the EPIRB CWME for Belarus
- 13:30 - 15:00 Meeting with the representative of ENPI Monitoring Team
- 15:00 - 15:30 Meeting with the representative of Republican Hydro-meteorological Centre

3. Results from the mission

Meetings/visits:	Findings/results:
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection - MNREP	Main objective of the visit to MNREP was to meet with the project RSC member from Belarus, Mr Sergei Zavyalov and discuss on-going and planned activities in terms of launching RBA study at Belarusian part of the Upper Dnieper pilot basin, for which Mr Zavyalov promised full support in providing data and necessary assistance from the Ministry for implementation of RBA. In addition, results of the recent regional workshop in Batumi, as well as proposed sub-regional training sessions for WFD compliant hydro-morphological, chemical/biological and groundwater monitoring were discussed. At the end Mr Zavyalov expressed his wish for better communication and information by the Project management team with the Ministry of Environment on project activities and plans in Belarus.
Republican Centre of Radiation Control and Environmental Monitoring - RCRCEM, RBA contractor	RCRCEM is well established semi-independent organization operating under the MNREP. The Centre has all necessary tools and is responsible for chemical, biological and radiological observations of surface water bodies in Belarus. They also have data, good processing/analytical skills and qualified staff. The Centre is planning to cooperate very actively with the other relevant institutions in Belarus in terms of collecting and processing all necessary data and information for the RBA study.
Republican Unitary Enterprise “Central Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources” - CRICUW	Participation of CRICUW experts in the relevant RBA sections for Belarus is under consideration. The Institute is operating under the name of MNREP, but has more commercial orientation. CRICUW is specialising in calculating water balances, cadastral information, complex schemes of water use, impact analysis, etc. and has a wide database.
Republican Unitary Enterprise “Belarus Research Geological Exploration Institute” - BRGEI	The Institute is responsible for groundwater exploration and monitoring in Belarus. One of the objectives to visit the BRGEI was to discuss availability and compliance of data for groundwater characterisation in the pilot basin. The Institute will participate in the drafting of RBA as Groundwater experts and provide all necessary monitoring data. The list of necessary groundwater information was discussed and deadlines agreed. In addition, methodology of characterization and further delineation of groundwater bodies during the current and following phases were pointed out by the KE5.



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Meetings/visits:	Findings/results:
ENPI Result Oriented Monitoring Mission	On demand of the ENPI Monitoring Mission the team has met with Ms Katherina Pirozhenko, monitoring expert evaluating the EPIRB activities in Belarus, Armenia and Georgia. Among others, special attention was paid during the meeting to the following issues: overall project implementation progress; management of the project both on a country and regional levels - possibility of opening project offices in each country; intensity of communication with the beneficiary institutions; coordination with the EU Delegations in each country; presence of annual planning and visibility mechanism, etc.
Republican Hydro-meteorological Centre - RHMC	RHMC is one of subdivisions of the State Hydrometeorological Service under MINREP. Collection, processing, analysis, maintenance and provision of hydrometeorological information from the state hydrometeorological monitoring network are the main objectives of the RHMC. Centre has the operational database with historical information that will be very useful for the RBA study. The necessary hydrological information and maps for the RBA was discussed during the meeting.

4. Recommendation / Proposed next steps

It has been found during the mission that hydro-morphological, chemical/biological and groundwater information is available for the last 10 year. These data and information will be processed and used for basin review, as well as for characterisation human pressures and impacts of the pilot river basin. Important outcome of the mission was to learn that the local responsible institutions are willing to support the project with their active contribution, data collection, processing and analysis under the guidance of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection. It is highlighted however that specific interest of Belarus lies to the Dnieper basin itself, no sub-basin (such as Sozh, or Prypiat) is considered as priority area. Therefore, it is important to negotiate on the exact location of a pilot area with the neighbouring Ukraine.

5. Photos



Meeting in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection

Meeting in the Centre of Radiation Control and Environmental Monitoring



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Meeting with the CWM of Belarus Alexandr Stankevich

Meeting with the ENPI Monitoring Mission

**Photos by Bernardas Paukstys*