



Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses  
and International Lakes

# WORKSHOP ON INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION

8-10 June 2005

Hotel Pribaltijskaya, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation



**UNECE**



WORLD  
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Center for  
Transboundary  
Cooperation  
St. Petersburg



## Background

The workshop on Information Management and Public Participation in Transboundary Water Cooperation is organized within the framework of the project *Capacity for Water Cooperation (CWC) in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia* (EECCA), developed under the work programme of the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes. The project aims to strengthen the capacity of transboundary water management in EECCA through cross-fertilization and exchange of experience between ongoing projects, river basins and countries on different aspects of integrated management of transboundary waters. CWC also aims to establish a network of EECCA experts involved in transboundary water management (<http://www.unece.org/env/water/cwc.htm>).

The GEF International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network (IW:LEARN), the World Bank Institute and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency fund the workshop. The workshop is prepared in cooperation with the Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation and IW:LEARN. IW:LEARN serves to strengthen the Global Environment Facility's International Waters projects by promoting information sharing and learning among stakeholders. The workshop is also part of a series of regional workshops IW:LEARN co-hosts around the world on information management and public participation. Hence, experiences and lessons from EECCA will be transferred to other regions through subsequent workshops.

The workshop has two main themes. The first is information management for transboundary water cooperation, including information needs for integrated management, information exchange between different actors involved and information utilization for decision-making and for stakeholders' information. The second theme is public participation, including methods for its development, stakeholders identification and involvement in decision-making.

The workshop participants are representatives of national authorities and NGOs actively involved in transboundary water management in the EECCA region, including in on-going GEF projects on international waters. They are not only recipients of the training but also trainers. Therefore participants are expected to prepare contributions and reports on the themes of the workshop to allow for a comprehensive and systematic exchange of the best practices in the region.

During each session, the presentations will be followed by general discussion, questions and answers. Participants who want to prepare specific interventions related to the session's themes are welcome to do so.

### TUESDAY 7 JUNE

19.00 – 21.00                      Arrival in St. Petersburg and transfer to Hotel Pribaltijskaya.  
    Dinner at the hotel.

### WEDNESDAY 8 JUNE

09.00 – 09.30                      Registration  
09.30 – 10.00                      **Opening and introduction to the workshop**  
*Chairpersons until the first coffee-break: Mr. Dann Sklarew and Mr. Bo Libert*  
Russian Ministry of Natural Resources, World Bank Institute, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

- Mr. Bo Libert, UNECE, “CWC project objective and outcome of the first workshop on the legal basis for transboundary water cooperation”
- Mr. Dann Sklarew, IW:LEARN, “Application of information management and public participation in GEF International Waters projects”

10.00 – 11.15

**Session 1. Finnish-Russian and Estonian-Russian cooperation in the region**

- Ms. Valentina Plyukhina, Federal Agency of Water Resources, “Experience of the Finnish-Russian cooperation over more than 40 years”
- Mr Harry Liiv, Estonian member of the Estonian-Russian Commission, “Lake Peipsi/River Narva basin – working together on the new Eastern border of the EU”
- Sirkka Haunia, Finnish Environment Institute, “Trends in information exchange in the Finnish-Russian cooperation”

11.15 – 11.30

Coffee-break

11.30 – 13.00

**Session 2. Information management in transboundary water cooperation**

*Chairperson: Mr Nadim Kazibekov, Azerbaijan*

- Ms. Francesca Bernardini, UNECE, “Information and transboundary cooperation – challenges and responses”
- Ms. Marianna Bolshakova, Aarhus Convention secretariat, “Information obligations arising from the Aarhus Convention and its protocol”
- Mr. Jos Timmerman, Dutch Institute for Inland Water Management and Waste Water Treatment, “Tailor-made information in transboundary water management”
- Ms. Malgorzata Lansberg, Polish Inspectorate of Environmental Protection, and Mr. Vladimir Korneev, Belarus Central Research Institute of Complex Use of Water Resources, “Information as a basis to establish transboundary cooperation: the experience of the Bug pilot project”
- Mr. Sergey Myagkov, Deputy General Director of Uzbekistan Hydromet, “Hydrological information exchange in Central Asia”
- Mr. Yuriy Nabivanets, Ukraine Hydromet Institute, “Interstate Dnipro Basin Environmental Data Base”

13.00 – 14.00

Lunch

14.00 – 16.00

**Working groups on information management and exchange**

*Participants will be divided in four groups, each focusing on specific river basins selected as case study (Dniester, Daugava and Nemunas, SyrDarya and AmuDarya, and Kura). For each river basin, the current information management and exchange will be reviewed and, on the basis of the experience of the group members, practical recommendations on the way forward will be formulated.*

16.00 – 16.15

Coffee-break

- 16.15 – 18.00      **Session 3. Tools for information management**  
*Chairperson: Mr Evgenyi Tyrtysnii, Kazakhstan*
- Mr Valentin Yemelin, UNEP-GRID-Arendal, “GIS and their use in integrated water resources management”
  - Mr. Iskander Beglov, Scientific Information Centre - Interstate Coordination Water Commission, “Using web technology: the Information Portal for Water and Environmental Issues in Central Asia”
  - Mr. Tim Hannan, UNDP, “Basin Water Information Centers in Kazakhstan”
  - Mr. Volodymyr Chipak, Zakarpathian Water Management Department, “Automatic information and measuring system in the Tisza river”
- 19.00 – 20.00      **Dinner**
- THURSDAY 9 JUNE**
- 09.30 – 10.00      **Presentations of the working groups results on information management and exchange**
- 10.00 – 11.00      **Session 4. The public in transboundary water management – its role and impact**  
*Chairperson: Ms. Natalia Zakorchevna, Ukraine*
- Mrs. Natalia Alexeeva, CTC – St. Petersburg, “Public participation in transboundary water management: trends in the EECCA”
  - Ms. Marianna Bolshakova, Aarhus Convention secretariat, “The Aarhus Convention as a legal basis for public participation activities”
  - Ms. Elena Dronova, UNDP-GEF Dnipro Basin Environment Program and Mr. Anatoliy Shvetsov, Belarus NGO “Ecodom”, “Partnership with NGOs”
- 11.00 – 11.15      Coffee-break
- 11.15 – 13.00      **Panel on public participation and stakeholders involvement in (transboundary) water management**  
*The panel will be composed of different transboundary water stakeholders (representatives of national authorities, NGOs and private sector) who will discuss aspects of public participation, e.g. legal and economic aspects, institutional arrangements, education and awareness raising, problems encountered and results achieved, from their specific perspectives. A general discussion will follow.*
- 13.00 – 14.00      Lunch
- 14.00 – 16.00      **Session 5. Public participation tools and methods used in transboundary water management**  
*Chairperson: Mr. Harry Liiv, Estonia*
- Mrs. Ulzhan Kanzhigalina, Zhalgas, “Public participation experience in Central Asia: experience from the Chu Talas basin”
  - Mrs. Kristina Veidemane, BEF, “Baltic States: Participatory approaches towards environmental management”

- Ms. Kati Kangur, CTC Peipsi, “Innovative methods for public involvement in water management decision making: Focus groups, citizen’s juries and open space method”
- Ms. Jasmine Bachmann, International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River, “Public participation in the Danube Basin: approaches, activities, challenges”
- Ms. Mary Mathews and Ms. Melina Seyfollahzadeh, Caspian Environment Programme, “Stakeholder analysis and public participation strategy: the lessons learned from the Caspian Environment Programme”

16.00 – 20.00 Boat-excursion on the Neva River and dinner.

## **FRIDAY 10 JUNE**

09.30 – 11.15 **Working groups on public participation**  
*Participants will be divided in four groups, each focusing on a specific river basin selected as case study. For each river basin, the public participation and stakeholders involvement will be reviewed and, on the basis of the experience of the group members, practical recommendations on the way forward will be formulated.*

11.15 – 12.00 **Presentations of the working groups results on public participation**

12.00 – 12.15 Coffee-break

**12.15 – 13.30 Closing the seminar**  
*Chairpersons: Ms. Francesca Bernardini and Mr. Dann Sklarew*  
 Conclusions from the presentations and working groups work  
 Recommendations of the seminar  
 Ms. Francesca Bernardini, UNECE, “Next stop Tbilisi”  
 Dr. Dann Sklarew, IW:LEARN, “Next stop Salvador”

### **For information concerning logistics and related issues, please, contact**

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