# Workshop on transboundary flood risk management

Geneva, 22-23 April 2009

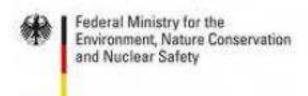
## Organisers



United Nations Economic Commission for Europe



Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management of the Netherlands





#### Objectives

- to exchange experience and to support the transfer of results from research projects and other recent activities concerning flood management in the European Union to non-EU countries
- to provide a platform for exchange of both positive and negative experience and of lessons learned taking into account the trans-boundary context
- to analyse flood management problems in transboundary basins – based on case studies – and to provide recommendations for improving trans-boundary cooperation regarding flood management

#### Participation

The workshop was attended by experts from:

 Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Czech Republic, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, the Republic of Moldova, the Nethherlands, Serbia, Slovakia, Switzerland, Turkey

as well as by delegates from

WMO and the EU Joint Research Centre

#### Programme

Introductory presentations on WMO's work, EU Flood Risk Management Directive and related EU activities, work under the Water Convention

Three sessions on

- Joint flood forecasting and early warning/ exchange of data
- Joint flood risk managemenat, planning and implementation
- Institutional and legal arrangements for cooperation

Discussions were based on ten case studies and a preparatory input document

- A lot of guidelines, best practice, tools is available which could be useful for non-EU countries if accessibility would be improved.
- Trans-boundary communication, joint monitoring and exchange of data could help to overcome differences in problem perception between riparian countries. Despite many good examples insufficient communication and data exchange is still a major obstacle for cooperation.

- Importance of co-operation but also deficits in legal framework, lack of capacity and resources, lack of public awareness and participation and political support were highlighted.
- Information of the public, awarness raising and public participation are crucial for prepardness

- Flood mangement should be part of basin wide IWRM
- Flood risk management should follow all steps of the risk management cycle. Learning processes need to be enabled through regular documentation, assessment and joint evaluation of lessons learned.
- Frameworks for co-operation need to be flexible to allow for adapting to new developments (climate change impacts)

- Technical co-operation often ahead of institional and political co-operation, this helps to build trust but political support – including providing sufficient funding – essential for establishing an efficient sustainable long term cooperation.
- A stepwise approach for developing transboundary cooperation and legal/ institutional frameworks was suggested, starting with joint monitoring, forecasting and early warning.

- First steps could be based on single MoUs but more comprehensive legal and institutional arrangements – including setting up of joint bodies – should be strived for.
- UNECE Water Convention provides an important and helpful framework to foster trans-boundary co-operation in flood risk management.
   Compliance checking mechanisms might be helpful.

#### Proposed Future Activities

- Regional Workshops and Training (both for technical and decision making level)
- Inventory of knowledge gaps and technical needs
- Pilot Projects
   (as part of pilots for testing guidance on adaptation to climate change)

#### Workshop Report

- Draft Version 29 June
- Comments until 27 July
- Submission to the 5th Meeting of the Parties in November
- to be published in English and Russian

All presentations and workshop documents are available on:

http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/transboundary\_flood\_workshop.htm

#### **Many Thanks**

to all

who contributed to the workshop as co-organisers, presenters of case studies, active participants or in any other role!