

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




Federal Ministry for the
Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety



World
Meteorological
Organization

Objectives

- Exchange experience of both positive and negative experience and of lessons learned taking into account the trans-boundary context
 - Support the transfer of results from research projects and other recent activities concerning flood management in the European Union to non-EU countries
 - Analyse flood management problems in trans-boundary basins – based on case studies –
 - Provide recommendations for improving trans-boundary cooperation regarding flood management
-  Discussions were based on ten case studies and a preparatory input document

Findings/Recommendations

- UNECE Water Convention provides an important and helpful framework to foster trans-boundary co-operation in flood risk management.
- A lot of guidelines, best practice, tools is available which could be useful for non-EU countries if accessibility would be improved.

Findings/Recommendations

- A stepwise approach for developing trans-boundary cooperation and legal/ institutional frameworks (from single MoU to comprehensive agreements/joint bodies was suggested.
- Starting with joint monitoring, exchange of data, joint forecasting and early warning could help to initiate trans-boundary communication and overcome differences in problem perception between riparian countries.
- Frameworks for co-operation need to be flexible to allow for adapting to new developments (climate change impacts)

Findings/Recommendations

- Flood risk management should be part of basin wide IWRM and follow all steps of the risk management cycle.
- Learning processes need to be enabled through regular documentation, assessment and joint evaluation of lessons learned.
- Information of the public, awareness raising and public participation are crucial for preparedness

Workshop Report



Includes:

- Overview on international guidelines and regulations for flood risk management (focus on UNECE and EU)
- Specific chapters on
 - Joint flood forecasting, flood warning and exchange of data
 - Joint flood risk management planning and implementation
 - Institutional and legal arrangements for cooperation

combining general information with summaries of the case studies

- Summary of the workshop conclusions and recommendations
- Report available in English and Russian

Proposed Future Activities

- Regional Workshops and Training
 **4.1 b) and 4.2 b) of the draft workplan**
- Pilot Projects
 part of pilots for testing guidance on adaptation to climate change under **3.1.1 of the draft workplan)**
- Inventory of knowledge gaps and technical needs (not covered in the workplan)