

# **Back to Office Report**

Places	Geneva, Switzerland
Dates	6-7 April, 2016
Participants	Sabina Bokal

Issue: Third meeting of the global network of basins working on climate change adaptation

### Purpose of the trip:

GWP CEE was invited to present drought management measures (transboundary aspect) implemented within IDMP CEE.

## Programme of the meeting:

### Main meeting objectives:

- review the progress and the lessons learned by the basins since the last meeting of the global network in February 2014;
- discuss common challenges such as financing of adaptation measures;
- discuss how to further facilitate a regular exchange of experience between the participating basins and other similar initiatives;
- review how the Paris Agreement and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction can support basin-wide adaptation.

IDMP CEE was presented in <u>Session 3 - Dealing with water scarcity and drought in transboundary basins, including consideration of the role of groundwater</u>. First, short presentation on the whole programme was giving and then some more detail information on Drought Management Guidelines, small retention measures and demonstration project on Dniester river between Ukraine and Moldova. At the end cooperation within the Danube river basin and DMCSEE was emphasized. Introductory presentation into this session had Bob Stefanski (also mentioning IMDP global programme). Other interesting presentations in this session were following:

- UNESCO/Graphic project using groundwater for climate change adaptation (http://en.unesco.org/graphic/regions)
- presentation "Drought as a new priority in flood-prone basins, the Meuse"; presentation
  of recent developed tools and methodology was given and emphasized that one of the
  most challenging part concerning drought management in transboundary basins is data
  exchange.

Interesting points/presentations from the rest of the sessions:

- Introductory session: connection with SDGs was mentioned and Network of basins is mainly addressing goal 6.5. target on transboundary cooperation; 6.4. focusing on water scarcity and droughts; 11.5. "city goal" focusing on water related disasters.
- Presentation of the publication <u>Water & climate change adaptation in transboundary</u> basins (Jos Timmerman, Alterra):
  - Publication was prepared also in cooperation with the GWP and WMO and launched on World Water Form in Korea in 2015;
  - o there is a collection of 64 lessons learned and 58 case studies;
  - o contributions from 80 experts worldwide;



- o lessons learned are targeting transboundary issues but they can also be used on the national level.
- Presentation of the work done in the Neman River (by Sergei Zavyalov):
   http://www.cricuwr.by/Neman/.
   It is similar to our "Kaliningrad" project and GIS platform which was developed within act. 1.4 (IDMP CEE): http://levis-gdb.sggw.pl/neman\_pregolya/.
- There was an interesting presentation in Session 4 Financing basin-wide adaptation; How can we support basins in finding funds? On Mainstreaming transboundary adaptation strategies into national policies and plans (by Kathleen Dominique, Environmental Economist (OECD)):
  - o 77% of the global funds goes to the mitigation;
  - largest share of the finances goes to the national governments and bilateral cooperation;
  - publication on financing climate adaptation (building on the experience of OECD countries; this report sets out how the latest economic evidence and tools can enable better policy making for adaptation.): <u>Climate Change Risks</u> and Adaptation;
  - three main channels through which government finances affected by climate change: investments to support risk reductions, risk transfer mechanisms, absorption of residual impacts;
  - How can be climate adaptation financing strengthen? OECD publication: Water and Climate Change adaptation which is based on the survey (around 34 countries profiles, which provide a snapshot of the challenges posed by climate change for freshwater and the emerging policy responses);
  - Toolkit to enhance access to adaptation finance (presenting some of the key challenges that countries are facing and how to address it);
  - more or less this presentation was focusing on developing countries.
- At the end there was discussion on the <u>Draft strategy for future work on climate change</u> <u>adaptation in transboundary basins under the Convention</u>; how could the future work of the Network look like, what should be the focus of the next meeting (less presentation, exchange of the experiences between basins, etc.

## Conclusions & Follow up:

- Dniester river basin project: In two weeks there will be a meeting on which presentation on <u>IDMP CEE demonstration project in Ukraine and Moldova</u> is expected to be presented (Andry Demydenko was invited to the meeting.
- Nieman river basin follow up: UNECE are planning to develop follow up project proposal and contacting Bernardas (GWP Lithuanian) as a contact point and connection with "Kaliningrad" project; UNECE was also informed about the similar project that was implemented within IDMP CEE in 2014.