

Flood management in a transboundary context

A Targeted Capacity Building Workshop organized under the Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process with the support of the German Ministry of Environment and GEF IWLEARN

13 - 14 December 2011, Zagreb, Croatia

INTRODUCTION

The Petersberg Process - Phase II / Athens Declaration Process

The Petersberg Process - Phase II / Athens Declaration Process (Process) for South Eastern Europe (SEE) is jointly coordinated by Germany, Greece and the World Bank.

The “Petersberg Process”, initiated in 1998, concerns cooperation on the management of transboundary waters. The Petersberg Process – Phase II is intended to provide support to translate into action the current developments and opportunities for future cooperation on transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwater management in the SEE. It is supported by the **German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety** and the **World Bank**.

The “Athens Declaration” Process concerning *Shared Water, Shared Future and Shared Knowledge* was initiated in 2003. It provides a framework for a long-term process to support cooperative activities for the integrated management of shared water resources in the SEE and Mediterranean regions. It is jointly supported by the **Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs** and the **World Bank**.

The two processes progressively came together in order to generate synergies and maximize the outcomes for the benefit of the SEE region. The Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med) is the technical facilitator of related activities.

The main **joint objective** is to build capacity and share experience on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), and to develop IWRM plans for shared water bodies as a response to the targets of the 2002 Johannesburg Summit.

The Process supports a series of complementary activities that provide a forum for transboundary water management issues in SEE. The activities revolve around the political, economic, social and environmental benefits that can be realized through effective cooperation in the management of transboundary waters. Activities focus on a set of key areas and take place at an increasingly local level to facilitate a broader range of participants.

Learning, knowledge sharing and dissemination are supported to strengthen capacity of cooperating parties at the institutional and individual level.

Investments are not directly supported but the exchange of ideas and experience will help to create conditions that enable investment in activities by public and private sources on the national and international level.

The Process complements the EU integration processes and other ongoing initiatives in the region. It contributes directly to the scope and objectives of the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI) and the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) MedPartnership.

The GEF IWLEARN

The latest phase, the third since its launching, of the **Global Environment Facility International Waters: Learning Exchange and Resources Network** (GEF IWLEARN), commenced in January 2011 and will run until approximately June 2014. The current phase builds on the outcomes of a successful 4-year project (2004-2008) and an earlier 3-year pilot project (2000-2003). It is a cooperative effort of the UNDP and UNEP, with the involvement of all GEF Agencies.

The GEF IWLEARN seeks to strengthen global experience, sharing and learning, dialogue facilitation, targeted knowledge sharing and replication. Additionally it seeks to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of GEF IW projects to deliver tangible results in partnership with other IW initiatives.

Activity 1b, Dialogue in South Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean, implemented by Global Water Partnership Mediterranean, aims to improve stakeholders' capacities towards enhanced transboundary water resources management (TWRM) through the implementation of Regional Roundtables and Targeted Capacity Building Workshops on policy tools and "technical" instruments to address river basin management issues, bringing up the benefits stemming from cooperation.

THE CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP

The Workshop is part of a series of capacity building activities including training workshops and study visits that focus on methodologies and experiences on addressing issues of transboundary water resources management in the framework of the Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process and GEF IW:LEARN.

The aim of these capacity building activities is to enhance the practical capacity of key stakeholders on priority issues of integrated management of shared water bodies, hence assisting in advancing practical application in Southeastern Europe (SEE).

The initiative works in synergy with the GEF IW projects in the area and supports the implementation of the objectives of the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI).

Learning objectives and methodology

Objectives: Provide the necessary information and training to practitioners that are involved, at the national or transboundary levels, in the management of international waters to:

1. Become familiar with the European acquis as well as with international legal documents related to flood management.
2. Understand how climate change, based on the current projections, is likely to affect flood occurrence and severity; understand how this factor of uncertainty can be introduced/taken in consideration in IWRM planning.
3. Understand the mechanisms of preparedness and mitigation regarding floods and their application in a transboundary context.
4. Understand the linkages between hydro-energy production and floods – how management of dams can be introduced as a parameter in river basin management - reference to good practices as well as bad examples.
5. Management of floods and river basin management - how the first can be integrated in the second (reference to good practices in Southeastern Europe).
6. The challenges in terms of cooperation at the transboundary level (on the flood management and preparedness), bad and good examples.

Methodologies: The training will be set up around lectures, case studies, reflection and facilitated discussion.

Target Group

Twenty practitioners from Southeastern Europe countries: (i) Staff of water and environment as well as energy competent ministries and subordinate institutions; (ii) Members of joint management bodies or joint bodies for the coordination of activities in transboundary basins; (iii) Representatives of organizations engaged in international waters projects supported by GEF as well as staff of the projects (iv) Representatives of NGOs.

Programme

The training will take two full days and will cover subjects included in the programme below:

December 13th

9:30-9.45	Opening ✓ Mr Dimitris Faloutsos ✓ Dr Enrique Cifres
9.45 – 10.00	Introduction - Workshop objectives and expected results Dr. Enrique Cifres
10.00-10.30	Familiarization activity
10:30-11:15	Transboundary flood protection and cooperation with Hungarian eyes Mr Kalman Papp
11:15-11:30	Discussion
11.30-12.00	Coffee Break
12:00-12:45	Effects of Climate change flood risks Dr Jacob Høst-Madsen
12:45-13:00	Discussion
13:00-14:30	Lunch
14:30-15:30	First session for practice: Public Participation Dr Enrique Cifres
15:30-15:45	Coffee break
15:45-16:30	Hydropower versus Flood control in dam and basin management levels. Mr Erjon Kalaja
17:30-17:00	Roundtable: Main flood concerns on shared river basin

December 14th

8:30-9:15	Management of Floods and Mechanisms of preparedness for flood mitigation and Cooperation on Transboundary Rivers. Mr Vladimír Holčík
9:15-9:30	Discussion
9:30-9:45	Coffee break
9:45 -10:30	Flood Risk Management and International Agreements Mr Justo Mora
10:30-11:15	Discussion
11:15-12:15	Second session for practice: Non structural Measures Dr Enrique Cifres
12:15-12:30	Discussion
12:30-14:00	Lunch
14:00-14:45	Flood management experiences in Serbia Ms Martina Jankovic
14:45-15:30	Roundtable: Good and bad experiences in flood management. Presentation of results from working groups
15:30-16:00	Summary and Conclusions Dr Enrique Cifres Closing session ✓ Mr Dimitris Faloutsos ✓ Dr Enrique Cifres