

Minutes of Joint Working Group Meeting 13.11.2006

Participants:

Co-chair Ms. Valentina Mileusnic (Directorate for Water)
Co-chair Mr. Claus Heuberger (RTA)
Ms. Milica Nadeždić (Hydromet, Chief of Water Quality Department)
Mr. Arpad Varga (Srbijavode, Vice Director)
Ms. Irina Franken (STE), irina.franken@mluv.brandenburg.de
Ms. Barbara Unger (STE), barbara.unger@gmx.de

Absent and excused:

Ms. Olivera Grozdić (Directorate for Water)
Mr. Nenad Stefanović (Vode Vojvodine)

0) Preliminaries

CH welcomes JWG and presents STEs.
CH thanks to the host of the meeting.
Minutes of last meeting were approved.

1) Workshop for Training Needs Assessment

Workshop that was planned for Nov 22th is changed to January 24th in order to allow presence of all members of JWG and STEs.

Objective of the TNA Workshop:

To present draft of the training programme; expected presence of the future trainees and others; beneficiary institutions of the training plan should identify persons with an overview of training needs with regard to WFD and these people should review the draft of the training programme.

CH presented the pillars of the training plan:

- 1) **general issues:** philosophy of WFD and overarching issues such as public participation and public awareness. Persons to involve: all stakeholders
- 2) **legal alignment:** separate workshop was agreed upon, the proposed date is in the week Feb. 26th to Mar. 2nd, 2007. Persons to involve: lawyers, those involved in legislation.
- 3) **RBMP:** Characterization, Monitoring, Programme of Measures.
- 4) **GIS and reporting** as transversal component.

Clarification and discussion:

- **Economic analysis** and dealing with purely financial, environmental and resource costs must be part of the training, as awareness about these costs is not given.
- Aim should be to have **realistic and feasible** RBMP as result of the twinning project
- Priority set out in the Water Master Plan and therefore the task of Srbijavode is to provide drinking water and sewage to population, industry and irrigation.
- GIS is needed by Srbijavode, but is currently subcontracted
- Lack of lawyers to implement WFD; help is needed in that aspect.
- A multidisciplinary approach is needed. More environment experts and specialization.
- Training is not only for Water Directorate as it cannot be separated from other water management institutions. Capacity building includes assessment and evaluation of existing organizational structure. Trainings will be oriented by tasks stipulated by WFD, to enable people to fulfil the

tasks from WFD. The search is for the most efficient way for Serbia to fulfil the WFD, so all institutions involved have to be considered.

- How to deal with necessity to employ new people for fulfilling WFD tasks? (Contradicting recommendations from WB and IMF, for example more or less staff is needed, or on budget-neutral raise of prices vs. increasing inflation as IMF calculates price per unit).

Conclusion:

A summary of Training Plan Recommendations will be sent around and participants for the January workshop will be identified. Discussion on this will be entered again on next meeting of JWG.

Next Meeting of the JWG: Dec 12, 2006, 10:00 at Water Directorate, Bulevar umetnosti 2a, room 301.

One more meeting prior to the workshop should be agreed on for week January 15-19.

2) Public awareness and public participation

There is a recognized need for public awareness of water issues.

Existing elements for PR:

- Directorate for Water has website and latest event will be published there (all presentations from Friday seminar in Chamber of Commerce).
- An ICPDR-team from Water Directorate is engaged and active in Public Participation Group of ICPDR.
- Directorate for Water organizes Danube day (Valentina Mileusnic, Jasna Stojanovic, Olivera Janković).
- Obligation for transparency on spending tax money and issuing licences has been catered to at Directorate for Water.
- Hydromet does not have PR staff. One person attended seminars on these issues organized by REC. Project manual from this seminar in Serbian language available.
- Srbijavode does not have PR but is constructing website. No PR team can be established as 140 existing positions may not be exceeded.
- Vode Vojvodina has some PR activities carried out (post cards, calendars etc.)

Brainstorming for future activities:

- Include journalist and aim at continuous reporting instead of just on covering catastrophes
- Include Steering Board of Srbijavode and Vode Vojvodina to bring about awareness in political parties.
- Distinguish between public awareness, public relations and public participation

3) Workshop for legal alignment

Agreed for the last week in February 2007; cf. above.

4) Specialization of members within JWG

Will be dealt with at next meeting.

5) Miscellaneous: ./.