

Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Working Group  
held on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February 2007, 10 am  
at the room 521 of the SIV\_III\_Building

Present: Valentina Mileusnic (Water Directorate), Olivera Grosdic (Water Directorate), Nenad Stefanovic (Vode Vojvodine), Olivera Gavrilovic (Vode Vojvodine), Arpad Varga (Srbijavode), Milica Nadezdic (RHMS), Claus Heuberger (RTA), Christian Ebel (RTA), Ivana Ivkovic (RTA-Assistant), Jovana Nastasijevic (RTA-Assistant),

Claus opened the meeting presenting the agenda:

1. Evaluation of the results of the training needs assessment workshop held on January 26<sup>th</sup> 2007 in Hydromet
2. Final preparation for the legal alignment workshop (activity 1.3.1) scheduled for February 28<sup>th</sup> 2007 in Directorate for Water
3. Overview of the 9 months of project running
4. Miscellenious

All participants agree with the agenda.

TOP 1:

All participants estimate the workshop on 26<sup>th</sup> of January, concerning the training needs and the structure of the training plan which is to be agreed among all the interested institutions, as a very successful one. After the workshop there was two week period for additional contributions from participants and several contributions were submitted to the twinning office. On the basis of the results of all that the training plan will be drafted. To complete the data on received trainings, Valentina will update the list, adding e.g. the Dutch project training activities and trainings related to the Swedish cooperation.

TOP 2:

Claus informs the colleagues that workshop of legal alignment will present the findings of German experts on compliance of draft water law with WFD.

Arpad takes the draft of the new Serbian water law into consideration. He points out that the final version of the draft is not known, but this is not key question. The fate of this draft is questionable. It is to expect legal system updating in Serbia. There will be changes in administrative structures on the national, regional and municipal level. Also the new constitution should be taken into account, especially regarding the function of the autonomous provinces. Furthermore the questions of the ownerships over water management facilities are still not totally answered, social property must vanish in this year becoming state or private property, law on concessions must be enacted, as well as law on construction land. Only after all this has been clarified, there is a chance to make water law which would be sustainable.

Valentina relegates to the document for ratification of Helsinki Convention, being in the parliament adoption procedure and now it must be revoked, due to the necessary changes related to new constitution. Even if the draft water law would be in the parliament, which is not the case, now it would be facing similar problem. The workshop should focus into the future.

Claus refers to the contract whereby the only goal is the report on gap analysis concerning the compliance of the draft with the WFD. The Serbian particularities couldn't be solved by German experts, at least not in this stage of the project. The project might take the issue of these topics in activity 1.3.2 by carrying out a strategy for the implementation of the new law.

Valentina points out that the other EU directives that have also to be checked by the twinning project's experts. She describes the Slovenian praxis (translating the text of Directives and passing it as law, but providing the compatibility with the rest of the legal Slovenian framework on the second legislation level). She also brings the financial issues on the table, since the harmonisation with the EU should be complete. Last not least a proper administrative capacity should be developed.

Claus comes back to the thread of the project. All the described issues will be addressed in the activities 1.3.2, 1.3.3 and 1.3.4. It is useful to collect the burning issues for later activities. There the corresponding results will be achieved. However, the workshop presenting the findings of gap analysis is of relevance too. From each involved institution participation to the workshop is confirmed.

#### TOP 3:

Claus gave the hint that the Twinning team aims to change the contract to strengthen more the activities dealing with communicational and organisational issues on the cost of cutting some activities which are not feasible.

Valentina added that some needs of the Serbian water administration not foreseen in the contract (e.g. the flood protection) might be covered by the TAIEX program of the European Commission. This afternoon a meeting with a member of the EU Integration office will take place and present also the TAIEX opportunities.

Nenad wants the Serbian flood protection experts to be involved into this TAIEX initiative concerning flood protection.

Ivana presents the prototype of the project's web page. Nenad initiates the enlargement of the web page with a 'Forum'.

Arpad misses the overview of the first 9 months of the project as it was announced in the agenda. It is not overview but just info on what is planned in the future for reshaping the project. He urges for receiving some reports so that progress and running of the project can be properly studied.

Claus promises to share the Quarterly Reports with colleagues. Latest report will be discussed in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarterly Report and will be submitted to the EAR before the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March. It can be distributed to the joint working group's members.

#### TOP 4:

Valentina mentioned the start of three more projects in the scope of the water management financed by the EAR. Arpad mentioned the negotiation over potential future project with Norwegians concerning monitoring stations at Kolubara river.

Christian joined with explanation concerning the purchase of automatic measure stations. A meeting was organized in Hydromet on 23<sup>rd</sup> of February 2007. Even being invited the Ministry for Science and Environment was not present. It is to be discovered what is their plan concerning monitoring stations. Also the Kolubara River will be mentioned in the report on laboratory issues.

All have agreed that the next JWG meeting takes place on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February 2007, 10am, at the meeting room of the WD.