

Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Working Group
held on the 16th of January 2007, 10am
at the room 301 (meeting room) of the WD

Present: Claus Heuberger, Valentina Mileusnic, Nenad Stefanovic (Vode Vojvodine),
Olivera Gavrilovic (Vode Vojvodine), Arpad Varga (Srbijavode), Milica Nadezdic
(RHMS), Ivana Ivkovic, Jovana Nastasijevic

1. Claus opened the meeting with the only topic – the workshop scheduled for the 26th of January, concerning the structure of the training plan which is to be agreed among all the interested institutions. The main document to consider would be the paper of Mr Kessler and Mr Domroese, since it contains the topics which are the basis for formulating the plan itself.

It is also needed to formulate (at least approximately) the expert groups for the workshop, i.e. to form the groups of nominated persons according to the area of their work and professional expertise, and also to their interest. There will be round 40-50 participants, so it is probable that it will take 6-8 working groups. It would make sense to begin the drafting of the groups today, in order to accelerate the process and save time.

As for the 26th, Claus introduced shortly the planned course of the workshop:

- a) Introduction (made by Claus or Valentina),
- b) determination of the working groups,
- c) result assessment – do the ideas of the German experts and their proposals actually get along with the needs of Serbian institutions.

The assessment of the training needs is actually the basis for formulation of the training plan, which is, further on, the basis for the training material formulation and the training itself.

Group formulating

The JWG started going through the lists of nominated persons for the WS, submitted by each of the institutions involved.

Srbijavode – Mr Varga has delineated the personell of his institution:

- Tanja Barbic – legal issues
- Darko Janjic, Arpad Varga – (Water Planning), RBM
- Milica Markovic – GIS issues

At this point, Nenad Stefanovic has noticed the problem – most of the participants were not aware, that all working groups of the workshop are going to be active at the same time – so that means it is not possible for the same person to participate in more than one WG at the time.

The colleagues have agreed (based on Valentina's and Claus' proposal) to organize the WS so, that the result assessment part, which is to take place as the last segment of the WS, also provides the possibility for all persons to discuss, propose, comment each of the topics/conclusions of any other working group (so that they are not strictly apart from

one another).

Claus has also said that next week, the colleagues Barbara Unger, Jürgen Domröse and Sven Schultz are arriving in Belgrade, and they will use the time before Friday 26th to organize these topics in detail and prepare the material. With this draft, they will show on Friday in order to discuss with Serbian colleagues about the final look of it.

At the end of the WS, all results will be presented and commented. The actual benchmark of this activity should be the agreed plan of the training program. In order not to lose any more time, now it is necessary to determine the persons for each of the groups – if somebody finds it more suitable to change the group, it can easily be done also on Friday.

Valentina and Nenad have noticed that the RBM group will probably be the most numerous one, since there are many topics in it, so they believe (Nenad in particular) they should stick to the CIS guidance document.

Claus suggested changing the RBM topic in order to give it an economic connotation also.

Milica said for the RHMS, that they don't have the appropriate personnel to cover all the groups (especially for legal issues), so not every institution should have representatives for each group – it is simply not feasible. However, they have nominated the persons entitled for legal issues (topic no. 1), although they are no lawyers, yet dealing with water permitting and Serbian Law at that part. Furthermore, she has noticed that there is some overlapping, especially in 3rd and 4th topic (RBM and monitoring topic). They are closely connected, so there should be some kind of a link between them.

Claus has pointed out that every institution should nominate the persons for the group they find suitable, concerning their needs and usefulness of the information obtained to optimise their work according to the WFD requests. If the total know-how of the house is covering only two groups, than they should maybe have more than one person nominated for one group.

Milica has given Claus the list of nominated persons, showing the actual overlaps in the groups. He has proposed to determine one for each of the overlapping groups, and later they can correct something, if needed.

Nenad has repeated that so far, in all workshops he has taken part in, they have been using the CIS guidance to organise the personal and further development of their work.

Claus agreed with that, since CIS really does accompany our project, but we should stick to the actual theme of the project – Capacity Building – and it means not the implementation of the WFD (to which the CIS is closely connected) in total.

Valentina said that capacity building in the sense of transposition and preparation of the WFD appliance actually does mean the implementation of the WFD, so that is basically the core of this project as well. Mastering the CIS guidance, i.e. the procedures which it describes, would very much help enabling the institutions in the sense of capacity building.

Claus basically agreed with this statement, but we follow the CIS completely only in those areas mentioned in the Contract.

Valentina said that the Contract is really very flexible, so we can take advantage of this in order to modify some areas. She said it is in our interest to make effort to overlap the Kesslers paper with the CIS as much as possible.

She also asked for some clarification – since the lists have been made by areas of work, and the low personell capacity of the WD is already known, as well as in Srbijavode and RHMS. Valentina asked Claus to make the groups based on all the lists obtained and mark the problems of each of the houses involved – it would make the procedure easier for the houses themselves.

Claus said it is possible, but he needs the professional background of the experts.

Mr Varga for Srbijavode, said that his institution for instance, doesn't perform any monitoring activities nor water body classification. The nominated persons are engineers, and they should take place in the WS in order to clarify the requests of the WFD according to the activities of Srbijavode. The knowledge obtained would be of use in planning, ordering and participating in various projects and tenders, in better understanding of the tasks – for instance better knowledge on transboundary impacts, etc. They also have problems with human capacity at this point for such kind of training. As a country, Serbia is facing the draft of the new Water Law, which is to be in accordance with the WFD. In the framework of the capacity building, it is important to stress the system reconstruction of Serbian water management via new Water Law. It can not be done by a private institution like J. Cerni. In six months time, though, it will be in ownership of the state.

Valentina has made a remark that it already is 90% state's property. It is still not confirmed, though.

Mr Varga has continued – at the moment, in the state administration and public water management companies, it is not allowed to hire any more persons – regardless of the fact that you might urgently need them. That is the first thing to be changed. Also, he said that the RHMS won't be independent as it was so far, it must be attached to some ministry (in terms of responsibility, etc.). So, he proposed Claus to stick to these people who are nominated and to organise them as suitable as possible.

Nenad has added that the persons involved must be able to understand the project tasks – and that is also one of the major goals of this activity – in particular those tasks which they are delegating to other persons, to be in the position to supervise the activities of others.

Claus said – as for the statement of Mr Varga – that it is too far from now, although completely correct, so we should take one step at the time. Next thing to do is the organisation assessment. Capacity building itself is connected with the structure reorganisation, but that is to come. Now we need the *needs* of the *actual staff* in Serbian administration. We are all aware that the people and tasks are permanently changing, so the needs of this staff might not be the same for some other, in few years or even earlier. This training program which is to be agreed should actually be updated every six months – but *the point of view at the very moment* is what we must consider for now.

Nenad has further delineated the persons of Vode Vojvodine according to the groups (leaning on the CIS guidance):

- Nenad Stefanovic (civ. eng. hydrotechnologist) – monitoring group
- Ratko Bajcetic (eng. of agriculture, melioration) – GIS group
- Djakonovic – planning process – group 3,
- Olivera Gavrilovic (technologist, water protection) – pressures and impacts,
- Vanja Jokovic-Barisic – PR,
- Rade Marcetic – pressures and impacts
- Matin – pressures and Impacts
- Milica Markovic – (economist, water use fees) – economic analysis,
- Sanja Pantelic (agriculture eng., melioration) – monitoring / identification of the WB.
- Jelena Vojvodic (economist) – program measures.

RHMS – Milica Nadezdic has delineated the persons from their list:

1. European legislation group:

- Srdjan Marjanovic (civ. eng.)
- Milica Nadezdic (civ. eng.)
- Mario Iles (chemist)

2. Introduction into the WFD philosophy

- Branislava Kapor (civ. eng.)
- Aleksandra Djurkovic (biologist)
- Biljana Brceska (chemist)

3.1

- Samir Catovic (civ. eng.)
- Snezana Cadjo (biologist)
- Natasa Crnkovic (technologist)

3.2

- Ivica Nikolic (geologist, groundwater)

4. Monitoring

4.1 – groundwater monitoring

- Vladan Kocic (hydrogeologist)

4.2

- Svetomir Mijovic (technologist)
- Miljana Ljesnjak (chemist)
- Zoran Stojanovic (chemist)

- Bojan Palmar (civ. eng.)
- Slavimir Stevanovic (civ. eng.)

From the part of the WD, Valentina has submitted the list to Claus and Ivana.

Nenad has commented that the Drinking Water Directive is not of interest for their institution, and the others have agreed upon that, but Claus answered that it was the request of the EAR to put it into the Contract.

Nenad and Olivera for the part of Vode Vojvodine, have nominated another person for the legal issues – Radivoj Maric, lawyer.

Claus said that there will be a special workshop concerning lawyers in particular and the draft of the Act analysis (28th February).

Valentina asked if the material for the WS on the 26th should be submitted at least four days in advance, since they need time to study it properly, having so many obligations apart from the project. The colleagues of the WD appreciate the effort of the Twinning team very much, therefore she finds it necessary to be well prepared for any meeting or workshop concerning the project – so they need more time to prepare, i.e. they need the material submitted in time.

Claus said it is not possible to have the material four days in advance, since the German colleagues arrive not before Monday and then starting the preparation. Yet, the paper from Barbara is not very important for the WS itself, but the remarks made today on the existing topic delineation will be considered and included in this document.

Valentina answered that Barbara's paper actually has some statements which are not confirmed, such as – *lack of political will to structure water institutions for implementation of the Twinning Project*.

Claus answered that this is actually the opinion of Barbara personally, and not made on behalf of the Twinning team. This is what happens when the expert's reports are not being approved.

Valentina proposed we should work on prevention from such conclusions and bad recommendations, since this is a clear signal we should do something about it.

Claus said it is not on the agenda of the WS, but informatively discussing the report – is possible.

Mr Varga has also made some remarks upon the translation of the report, saying that it is better to have also the original, because he finds some misunderstandings in the text which might be the result of not well understanding the original document – but also it should be that the original version is somehow debatable. The part of the text concerning the outline of the training plan is OK. He also asked the organisers of the WS to submit the invitations in time via Water Directorate, if possible.

Valentina said they (WD) can provide some copies of the WFD translated in Serbian and also the translations of other EU directives. It should be good to burn some material on

CDs for the participants, referring to the WFD to give them some input about it – there might be some of them who never got acquainted with it before. Some material is also downloadable from the SAVA cards website (for instance all CIS guidance papers).

Claus said we will provide the translation from German to Serbian and vice versa for the WS, and as for the equipment needed, Valentina said that he should provide her with the list of the needs and she will take care of it.

Nenad has asked if it is possible to make a draft of the Water Information System - how should it look like and what is actually its function, based on the STE's experiences.

Valentina said also it would be of great help if they could get German regulations, as example for each area of work (referring to all participants). Olivera Grozdic has got one from her German colleagues (laboratories) and everyone at the WD has agreed that that is the right thing to do. Of course, Serbia is not comparable to Germany and it is not possible to actually apply German laws, but as a model, it would be really helpful (for instance, procedures and methodology for the water inspection, water permitting, etc.)

Claus said the EAR has cancelled their chapter concerning the WIS from the Contract. It existed in the 1st version, but not anymore.

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