

TWINNING INTERIM QUARTERLY REPORT NUMBER 1



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

**TWINNING PROJECTS
INTERIM QUARTERLY REPORT**

Project Title: “Capacity Building in the Directorate of Water”

Partners: Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany (BMU)

Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of the Republic of Serbia, Directorate for Water (MAFWD)

Date: .09.2006

Signature of BC Project leader

Signature of MS Project leader

Section 1: Project data

Twinning Contract Number	SR2005/IB/EN/01
Project Title:	“Capacity Building in the Directorate of Water”
Twinning Partners (MS and BC)	Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany (BMU) and Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of the Republic of Serbia, Directorate for Water (MAFWD)
Report Number:	1
Period covered by the report:	24 May 2006 to 23 August 2006
Duration of the project:	24 Months
Rapporteur:	Dr. Nikola Marjanovic (MAFWD) and Heinz-Jochen Poremski (BMU)

Section 2: Content

2A – BACKGROUND

Policy Developments

Serbia intends to implement and enforce the guiding principles of EU's Water Framework Directive (WFD). In this regard, a draft new Water Law is prepared and under discussion within the water management administration of Serbia.

The European Commission adopted a proposal for a new Directive to protect surface water from pollution on 17 July 2006 (COM (2006)397 final). The proposed Directive, which is required to support the Water Framework Directive, will set limits on concentrations in surface waters of 41 dangerous chemical substances (including 33 priority substances and 8 other pollutants) that pose a particular risk to animal and plant life in the aquatic environment and to human health. The proposal will contribute to the Commission's Better Regulation initiative by replacing five older directives, allowing their repeal. This proposal is part of the new strategy against chemical pollution of waters introduced by the Water Framework Directive.

Project Assumptions

This Twinning project purposes to upgrade Serbia's institutional capacity to be able to implement and enforce the guiding principles of the EU's Water Framework Directive and related legislation. The overall objectives of this project are:

- Development of capacity in the WD to implement WFD and relevant water directives.
- Improve the organisation of the WD
- Improve public awareness.
- To upgrade the existing monitoring system up to EuroWaternet standards.
- To strengthen the capacity of Serbian institutions engaged in water monitoring.

In order to achieve these wider objectives, the project will be carried out in 7 Components (besides Component 0: Project Co-ordination):

- Training Plan prepared and under implementation. (Sub-Component 1.1)
- Pilot application of the WFD under implementation. (Sub-Component 1.2)
- Action Plan for legal alignment with the Acquis Communautaire prepared and being implemented.(Sub-Component 1.3)

- Human Resource management Capacity established in water Directorate. (Sub-Component 1.4)
- WFD awareness programme implemented. (Sub-Component 1.5)
- Detailed Strategy for upgrading the water monitoring system prepared (including detailed list of equipment and infrastructure requirements together with a budget and financial plan) and under implementation. (Sub-Component 2.1)
- Inter- and intra-organisation communication procedures and systems implemented. (Sub-Component 2.2)

2B – ACHIEVEMENT OF MANDATORY RESULTS

It is expected that the contents of this Twinning project will contribute substantially to achieving some of the wider objectives of Serbian Water Management and will lead to the following results:

- Training needs identified and prioritized.
- Training Plan including a time schedule for implementation and Training Material prepared and disseminated.
- First training units implemented within the scope of the Twinning project.
- Components of River Basin Management Plan prepared for a Pilot River basin implemented.
- Action Plan and Draft legislation elaborated and agreed in the water administration.
- Human Resource management staff appointed in Water Directorate, HRM procedures in operation.
- Awareness strategy relating to goals, target groups, media and measures including a time schedule elaborated.
- Key messages developed and WFD awareness campaign launched.
- Two events for raising awareness on WFD with stakeholders carried out.
- Strategy document adopted as Conclusions of the Government. Identified upgrading of the monitoring programmes and systems taking place.
- Communication procedures and systems, Standard Operating procedures and Quality Management Systems installed.

None of the benchmarks above related with the mandatory results have been achieved so far. The works for achieving it are in progress.

2C – ACTIVITIES IN THE REPORTING PERIOD

The following table reveals the current status of activities and benchmarks.

Table 1: Activities completed and benchmarks delivered

Activity	Benchmark	Status
Component 0: Project Coordination		
0.1 Project set-up	RTA offices installed and operable. Relevant contact persons identified and contacted by project month 1	Started
0.2 Kick-off meeting	All project partners informed on the project workplan, time schedule and the further proceedings by project month 2	Done
0.3 Coordination with parallel projects and the International Commission for The Protection of the Danube (ICPDR)	Regular meetings with representatives of parallel projects in the water sector carried out and information disseminated in project month 4, 10, 17	Started
0.4 Wrap-up workshop	Project results summarised and disseminated. Further steps for the harmonisation of the Serbian water sector with EU requirements identified by project month 23	
Component 1: Strengthening the institutional capacity of the Directorate for Water and related institutions		
Sub-Component 1.1: Assessment of institutional capacities and planning of training activities		
	Training Plan and Training Material prepared and disseminated.	
1.1.1 Assessment of the institutional structures and review of achieved training by the WD and Hydromet in the field of River Basin Management Planning	Assessment report on the current institutional situation, training status and training needs for WD and Hydromet staff elaborated and agreed by project month 3	
1.1.2 Establishment of joint working group with WD and Hydromet	First meeting of the joint working group carried out and meeting schedule fixed by project month 4	
1.1.3 Formulation of a training plan	A training plan for the staff of WD and Hydromet (department for hydrology and department for environmental control) is elaborated by project month 5	
1.1.4 Preparation of training material	Training material is developed and agreed by project month 3 – 19 parallel to the training sessions in the specific activities	
Sub-Component 1.2: Joint elaboration of a RBMP for the pilot small river basin		
	Components of River Basin Management Plan prepared for a Pilot River basin.	

1.2.1 Introduction of conceptual issues for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive	3 seminar series for the implementation of River Basin Management Planning (I Characterisation of river basins and programmes of measures, II Monitoring, III GIS and Reporting) held. Relevant staff at the WD and Hydromet trained by project month 14	
1.2.2 Characterisation of the river basin district, review of the environmental impact of human activity and economic analysis of water use (Article 5 WFD)	Characterisation of the pilot small river basin according to article 5 of the WFD delivered by project month 12.	
1.2.3 Formulation of a monitoring programme of surface water and ground water status according to WFD and Serbian legal requirements in the small river basin.	Monitoring Programme for the pilot small river basin developed and disseminated in the WD and Hydromet and involved institutions by project month 17.	
1.2.4. Formulation of the programme of measures (Article 11 WFD) for the RBMP	Programme of measures for the pilot small river basin developed by project month 21.	
1.2.5 Mapping out water resources in the pilot river basin with the help of GIS techniques.	RBMP maps according to Annex 7 of the WFD are prepared month 20.	
1.2.6 Study tour on surface and groundwater monitoring and the use of GIS	5-day study tour for 10 persons from the WD and Hydromet implemented and potential technical and administrative solutions for Serbian monitoring system identified by the participants in project month 3.	
Sub-component 1.3 Developing of action plans for the alignment of legislative, administrative and financial measures in the water sector	Action Plans and Draft legislation elaborated and agreed in the water administration.	
1.3.1 Gap analysis of the existing legal framework in the water sector in Serbia	Gap analysis of the Serbian water legislation with regard to the harmonisation with the <i>acquis communautaire</i> is elaborated by project month 6.	
1.3.2 Preparation of the transposition of key directives	Central elements for the transposition of the selected key directives formulated and agreed in the water administration by project month 9.	
1.3.3 Upgrading administrative structures for enforcement	An action plan for administrative restructuring of the Serbian water administration according to the harmonisation needs is prepared and disseminated by project month 15.	
1.3.4 Development of a financial plan	Support to the elaboration of long-term financial plan for the harmonisation process with the EU is accomplished by project month 19.	
Sub-Component 1.4 Human Resources Development	Human Resource management staff appointed in Water Directorate and Hydromet, HRM procedures in operation.	

1.4.1 Restructuring of the administrative units responsible for human resource development	Core team for recruitment, HR development and motivation established and trained in a 1-week seminar on personnel management instruments by project month 4.	
1.4.2 Elaboration of a human resource development strategy	A human resources development strategy is elaborated and agreed between the partners by project month 21.	
<i>Sub-Component 1.5 Design of a WFD public awareness programme</i>	Awareness programme, Awareness raising materials and events implemented.	
1.5.1 Assessment of obstacles and opportunities for public participation in the implementation of the WFD	Assessment report on public participation elaborated by project month 11.	
1.5.2 Design of a multi-level awareness strategy	Awareness strategy relating to specific goals, key target groups, mix of medias and selection of measures including time frame elaborated by project month 13.	
1.5.3 Implementation of the public awareness programme	Key messages developed and WFD awareness campaign launched by project month 13. 2 stakeholder seminars with participation of the administrations, industry, NGOs, researchers involved in the water sector held by project month 14 and 20. Interim evaluation of awareness undertaken for a key target group by project month 22.	

Component 2: Support for the upgrading of the Water Monitoring system in Serbia	Strategy document adopted as Conclusions of Government. Identified upgrading taking place.	
Sub-Component 2.1 Enhancing monitoring system and laboratory capacity		
2.1.1 Review of the existing monitoring programmes and facilities (measuring stations, i.e. monitoring sites) for surface water, groundwater and hydrological observations, i.e. water level, discharge, sediment transport	Monitoring programme and facilities reviewed and recommendations developed and agreed by project month 3.	Started
2.1.2 Redesign of the monitoring programme and observation network and sampling design for surface water, ground water hydrological observations, i.e. water level, discharge, sediment transport	Monitoring network for monitoring surface and groundwater meeting WFD and Eurowaternet requirements agreed by project month 8.	Started
2.1.3 Technical Implementation plan for enhancing the monitoring system and the monitoring facilities (hardware)	Specifications for the preparation of the tender of the equipment for water monitoring / testing by project month 8.	
2.1.4 Training of personnel involved in Water Monitoring	2-week intensive training on monitoring issues for 2 persons from Hydromet in Germany and transfer of specialised know-how on the operation of automated monitoring stations undertaken by project month 9.	
2.1.5 Development of a field handbook of methods for the collection, preservation and transportation of water samples.	Manual for (Serbian) procedures in collection, preservation and transportation of water samples drawn up as draft by project month 16.	
2.1.6 Technical implementation plan for enhancing the laboratory equipment and capacity	Hardware needs identified and agreed, cost estimation, investment needs and operating costs identified by project month 12.	
2.1.7 Training of laboratory staff in processing/handling of samples and analytical techniques.	Relevant staff at Hydromet trained and training progress evaluated by project month 14.	
Sub-Component 2.2 Enhancing organisational capacity of institutions undertaking water monitoring	Communication procedures and systems, Standard Operating procedures and Quality management Systems installed.	
2.2.1 Assessment of intra- and inter-institutional communication procedures and data management	Existing communication procedures described and gaps analysed by project month 6.	
2.2.2 Improvement of communication between the institutions by the elaboration of standard communication /reporting procedures and systems	Recommendations for the improvement of communication procedures formulated and agreed by project month 12.	
2.2.3 Quality assurance/control of the documentation of monitoring results and data	Guidance document for quality control system of monitoring results and data developed by project month 19.	

Component 0: “Project Set-up”

Activities 0.1 “Project Set-up” and 0.2 “Kick-Off Meeting”

With the final notification of the Twinning Project by the European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR) on the 24 May 2006, the RTA Mr. Claus Heuberger officially started his work in Belgrade. RTA Mr. Christian Ebel followed on 28 May 2006. Both RTA Assistants Ms. Ivana Ivkovic and Ms. Jovana Nastasijevic had been already selected in a formal tendering procedure. Descriptions of their tasks are included in the Covenant. Ms. Nastasijevic began her work on the 14 June 2006, Ms. Ivkovic on 24 July 2006. With mutual endeavour and with the commitment of the Water Directorate staff, the gap could reasonably be bridged. After the summer break the Twinning partners started to meet regularly once a week to communicate the further course of the project.

Starting on 7 October 2005 (first meeting for negotiation the contract) both RTA permanently asked the Serbian counterparts for adequate office rooms. Unfortunately, it was not possible for the Serbian Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management to supply any offices for the RTAs, two project assistants and visiting STEs until the end of the reporting period. Consequently, some shortcomings especially regarding organisational matters had to be endured.

In the beginning of August the Serbian partners offered 3 PCs and - as interim solution - their only conference room of the Water Directorate as office space for the RTA-Team. On their own initiative the RTA-Team purchased printer, server and router and connected three PCs to establish a basically functioning internal office communication. The so designed answer to this problem clearly improved the given situation so far.

Besides missing the offices and the basic equipment the vacation time and with it the absence of Serbian and German experts in July and August avoided a proper start of the project. Due to the mentioned facts we have to face a delay regarding the run of the project and it needs great combined efforts to get in accordance with the time schedule of the Covenant.

It is to emphasise that the RTA-Team appreciates the patience and the support of the Serbian colleagues who shared their desk with the RTA to bridge the shortcomings concerning the missing offices.

The kick-off meeting took place on 15 and 16 June 2006. The documentation of this meeting is attached as Annex (see 2 F).

The Kick-Off meeting activity was used by RTA 2 to introduce into the contents of the contract of the Twinning project concerning component II. The Serbian institutions as the Institute Jaroslav Cerni and the Institute Sinisa Stankovic gave a short overview of their activities and works carried out in the EC Cards Regional Project SAVA entitled "Pilot River Basin Plan for Sava River, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro".

Further obstacles are to be stated resulting from the preparation phase of this project. Following the recommendations and the orders of the EAR the tendering of the project assistants happened too late for their timely start of work.

To establish good working relations the RTAs met Mr. Simon Davies and Mr. Branko Mikasinovic (EAR) on 30 May 2006. The common issues of the Twinning project e.g. the procedure with side letters and quarterly reports were discussed and Mr Davies established Mr Mikasinovic as counterpart for the project. On occasion of this meeting the RTAs informed about the problem concerning the missing offices for the first time.

Kick-Off Meeting:

Duration: 2 days

Participants: Deputy State Secretary of the Serbian Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Head of Water Department of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Serbian and German Project Leader, RTAs 1 and 2 and counterparts from Directorate for Water, RTA assistants, representatives of the press and German Embassy, KfW, German Chamber of Foreign Trade (Full list of participants annexed)

Activity 0.3: Coordination with other projects and the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube (ICPDR).

Both RTAs visited the Technical Assistance Project in the MAFWM with the title “Support to Rural Development Programming and Payment System”. Furthermore RTA 2 has agreed with the EC Regional Sava CARDS Project “Pilot River Basin Plan for the Sava River – Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro” a close cooperation and a sharing of workshops and European experts during their visit in Serbia in the course of this project. The representatives of the Twinning project SR 04 AG 01 at the MAFWM were on leave or replaced. Until now it was not possible to arrange a meeting with them or to receive the relevant results.

RTA 2 successfully contacted ICPDR that is ready to accept him as an observer. Since the budget doesn't foresee funds in this activity, the travel costs have to be reimbursed by another institution.

Duration: ongoing

Participants: RTA 2 Mr. Ebel

Sub-Component 2.1: “Enhancing monitoring system and laboratory capacity”

Missions related to Activity 2.1.1:

Title: “Review of the existing monitoring programmes and facilities (measuring stations, i.e. monitoring sites) for surface water, **groundwater** and hydrological observations, i.e. water level, discharge, sediment transport”

From the 21st to the 25th of August two short term expert missions were carried out by Mr Domroese (Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg) and Mr. Peter Neumann (State of North Rhine Westphalia). In order to carry out the assessment of the actual situation of groundwater monitoring in Serbia they visited the responsible institutions (Water Directorate, Hydrometeorological Institute of the Republic of Serbia and the Institute Jaroslav Cerni) and the competent persons in this field. More than 15 persons attended Mr. Domroese and Mr. Neumann from the different mentioned institutions during their mission. The mission report will be subject of the next quarterly project report 2.

Duration: 5 days

Participants: 2 STEs (Mr. Domroese, Mr. Neumann), 2 from Directorate for Water, 2 from Institute Jaroslav Cerni, more than 12 from Hydromet, RTA 2 Mr. Ebel

Mission related to Activity 2.1.2:

Title: „Redesign of the monitoring programme and observation network and sampling design for surface water, **ground water** hydrological observations, i.e. water level, discharge, sediment transport”

From the 21st to the 25th of August short term expert Mr. Georg Berthold carried out a mission in order to carry out first assessments in relation for the redesign of the groundwater monitoring in Serbia he visited the responsible institutions (Water Directorate, Hydrometeorological Institute of the Republic of Serbia and the Institute Jaroslav Cerni) and the competent persons in this field. More than 15 persons attended Mr. Berthold from the different mentioned institutions during his mission. The mission report will be subject of the quarterly project report 2.

Duration: 5 days

Participants: 1 STE (Mr. Berthold), 2 from Directorate for Water, 2 from Institute Jaroslav Cerni, more than 12 from Hydromet, RTA 2 Mr. Ebel

2D – TIMING AND DELAYS

Table 2: Time schedule of the project

Project Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
Component 0: Project Coordination																									
0.1 Project set-up	x																								
0.2 Kick-off meeting		x																							
0.3 Coordination with other projects and the ICPDR				x																					
0.4 Wrap-up workshop																									
Component 1: Strengthening the institutional capacity of the Directorate for Water and related institutions																									
Sub-component 1.1: Assessment of institutional capacities and planning of training activities																									
Activity 1.1.1: Assessment of the institutional structures and review of achieved training by the WD and Hydromet in the field of River Basin Management Planning																									
Activity 1.1.2: Establishment of joint working group with WD and Hydromet																									
Activity 1.1.3: Formulation of a training plan																									
Sub-component 1.2: Implementation of training for the pilot application of RBMP issues																									
Activity 1.2.1: Introduction of conceptual issues for the implementation of the WFD																									
Activity 1.1.4: Preparation of training materials																									

Legend of the table: tick box x = activity accomplished, grey tick box = activity planned, black tick box = delay of activities of exceeding 3 months

Table 2 (cont.): Time schedule of the project

Project Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Activity 1.2.2: Characterisation of the river basin district, review of the environmental impact of human activity and economic analysis of water use																								
Activity 1.2.3: Formulation of a monitoring programme of surface water and ground water status according to WFD and Serbian legal requirements in the small river basin																								
Activity 1.2.4: Formulation of the programme of measures (Art. 11 WFD) for the RBMP																								
Activity 1.2.5: Mapping out water resources in the pilot river basin with the help of GIS techniques																								
Activity 1.2.6: Study tour on surface and groundwater monitoring and the use of GIS and																								
Sub-component 1.3: Development of action plans for the alignment of legislative, administrative and financial measures in the water sector																								
Activity 1.3.1: Gap analysis of the existing legal framework in the water sector in Serbia																								

Legend of the table: tick box x = activity accomplished, grey tick box = activity planned, black tick box = delay of activities of exceeding 3 months

cont. Table 2: Time schedule of the project

Project Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Activity 1.3.2: Preparation of the transposition of the UWWTD and Nitrates Directives																								
Activity 1.3.3: Upgrading administrative structures for enforcement																								
Activity 1.3.4: Development of a financial plan																								
Sub-component 1.4: Human resources development																								
Activity 1.4.1: Restructuring of the administrative units responsible for human resource development																								
Activity 1.4.2: Elaboration of a human resource development strategy																								
Sub-component 1.5: Design of a WFD public awareness programme																								
Activity 1.5.1: Assessment of obstacles and opportunities for public participation in the implementation of the WFD																								
Activity 1.5.2: Design of a multi-level awareness strategy																								
Activity 1.5.3: Implementation of the public awareness programme																								

Legend of the table: tick box x = activity accomplished, grey tick box = activity planned, black tick box = delay of activities are exceeding a time span of three months

cont. Table 2: Time schedule of the project

Project Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Component 2: Support for the upgrading of the water monitoring system in Serbia																								
Sub-component 2.1: Enhancing monitoring system and laboratory capacity																								
Activity 2.1.1: Review of the existing monitoring programmes and facilities (measuring stations, i.e. monitoring sites) for surface water, groundwater and hydrological observations, i.e. water level.																								
Activity 2.1.2: Redesign of the monitoring programme and observation network and sampling design for surface water, ground water and hydrological observations, i.e. water level.																								
Activity 2.1.3: Technical implementation plan for enhancing the monitoring system and the monitoring facilities (hardware)																								
Activity 2.1.4: Training of personnel involved in water monitoring																								
Activity 2.1.5: Development of a field handbook of methods for the collection, preservation and transportation of water samples.																								
Activity 2.1.6: Technical implementation plan for enhancing the laboratory equipment and capacity																								

Legend of the table: tick box x = activity accomplished, grey tick box = activity planned, black tick box = delay of activities of exceeding 3 months

cont. Table 2: Time schedule of the project

Project Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Activity 2.1.7: Training of laboratory staff in processing / handling of samples and analytical techniques																								
Sub-component 2.2: Enhancing organisational capacity of institutions undertaking water monitoring																								
Activity 2.2.1: Assessment of intra- and inter-institutional communication procedures and data management																								
Activity 2.2.2: Improvement of communication between the institutions by the elaboration of standard communication /reporting procedures and systems																								
Activity 2.2.3: Quality assurance/control of the documentation of monitoring results and data																								

Legend of the table: tick box x = activity accomplished, grey tick box = activity planned, black tick box = delay of activities of exceeding 3 months

Recuperation of delays

No activities are delayed more than three months and it will be presumably possible to overcome the slight delays produced due to summer holidays in the month of July and August 2006.

2E ASSESSMENT

Overall assessment of progress

Project management and administration arrangements have been put in place for managing the budget, mission and benchmarks.

Of the five benchmarks programmed for the first project quarter, one has been completed. The remaining four couldn't be achieved due to the lack of equipment, offices and the summer break.

Three missions of STEs (under Activities 2.1.1 and 2.1.2) have been carried out in accordance with the work plan.

Most of the activity related short term missions were delayed for the reasons already mentioned above. The core holiday season did not make it appear reasonable more efficient to carry out any short term mission in the months of July and August. It is envisaged to catch up with the planned time table during the next quarterly reporting time span. In the second project quarter it is planned that the frequency of the STE missions is intensified and harmonized with the availability of the counterparts.

Following studies and documents of relevance for assessment of the current situation and other initial activities of the project the Serbian partners delivered to the German twining team:

- National Roof Report 2004 for ICPDR (Parts)
- Water Law from 1991, as amended and promulgated on
- Water Master Plan
- Instruments on Water Sector Development in the Republic of Serbia, phase one draft
- Management Development,
- Blueprint for the Reorganisation of Water Management in Republic of Serbia,
- New Draft of Water Law
- Study of identification of surface water categories and preliminary identification of heavily modified artificial water bodies in the Territory of Serbia's Danube basin part
- Study of identification of important pressures and impacts

- Study of Categorisation of Groundwater in the Danube Basin on the Territory of Serbia
- Study of the Inventory of Protected Areas

Serbian Twinning partners requested to schedule the missions of the STE's only for the periods when at least one of the 2 RTA counterparts or the Serbian project leader is present. Both RTA's promised to fulfil this desire as far as possible.

The Twinning partners co-operated faithfully.

2F ANNEX

Documents concerning the Kick off Meeting