

Making water resources management more adaptive – Opportunities and barriers for implementation

13 April 2011, 13-15h, Room VIII, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Special side event at the UNECE Water Convention's "Second workshop on water and adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins: challenges, progress and lessons learnt" (12 and 13 April 2011, Palais des Nations, Geneva)

Background

Where uncertainty cannot be reduced in the short-term, or where policy decisions cannot be postponed until better knowledge is available, adaptive approaches to water resources management are required. The Twin2Go project – together with regional experts and stakeholders – has synthesised past and ongoing research and best practices on adaptive water governance from 29 river basins around the world.

In this first of a series of policy dialogues, Twin2Go aims to share preliminary results and discuss transferability of best practices and lessons learnt, with decision makers and practitioners.

Objectives of the session

In a panel discussion, decision makers and practitioners from Russia and the New Independent States will share their experiences and perspectives on adaptiveness and best practices in water resources management, particularly in the context of climate change. Together with regional scientists they will **discuss barriers and opportunities for implementing adaptive approaches; and how adaptive water governance can be included into existing policy processes.**

Panellists

- Mr. Georgy Fomenko (Institute "Cadastr", member Science & Technology Council of RF Ministry for Natural Resources and Environment)
- Ms. Elena Ostrovskaya (UNESCO-IHE)
- Mr. Mykola Babych (State Committee of Ukraine for Water Management)
- Ms. Irina Gromova (PhosAgro)

Session outline

1.5 h Panel discussion moderated by Annika Kramer (adelphi research, Twin2Go)

- 30 min - Individual inputs by panellists
 - 30 min - Panel discussion
 - 30 min - Open Q&A with the audience
- *The discussion will be held in Russian and English with simultaneous interpretation*
- *Sandwiches and drinks will be served for lunch*

Leading questions

- What are essential features of a water governance system that is able to cope with complexity and uncertainty in the context of climate change?
- What are barriers and opportunities for implementing adaptive approaches? To what extent can adaptive governance approaches be transferred across different basins?
- How can water policies and programmes support transitions towards more adaptive water governance?

About Twin2Go

The Twin2Go consortium, consisting of 8 international partner organisations, has synthesised research and undertaken expert and stakeholder dialogues in Africa, Latin America, South and South East Asia, Russia/New Independent States, and Europe. Funded under the EU's 7th Framework programme, Twin2Go runs from 2009 until 2011. An Advisory Board has continuously validated and aided the project's work, and includes members of international water organisations such as UNECE Water Convention, GWP, GWSP, and UNESCO-IHP.

For more information on Twin2Go please refer to our website www.twin2go.eu



Twin2Go receives funding from the European Community's Seventh Framework Programme under grant agreement n° 226571.

About the Panellists

Mr Mykola Babych is Deputy Head of the State Committee of Ukraine for Water Management. He graduated from the Ukrainian Institute of Engineers of Water and works since 1971 in the water sector in Ukraine. Mr. Babych has extensive experience on the construction of water facilities, flood protection, management of reservoirs and water management and water systems. He has been closely involved in the development of water legislation on State Program for Development of Water Resources of Ukraine. Mr Babych was engaged in the implementation of water resource management s in river basin, creation of basin agencies and river basin councils. He led the Crisis Center of the State Committee and was responsible for the establishment of an emergency response plan in the water sector. Mr. Babych is also Government's Commissioner for cooperations with Moldova and Romania on transboundary waters.

Mr Georgy Fomenko, is President of the board of the Institute "Cadastr" in Yaroslavl, Russia. He is also a member of several national scientific and technical institutions and advisory boards, including the Scientific and Technical Council of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, the Council on Environmental Legislation, and the Academy of Natural Sciences. Mr Fomenko has extensive experience in public environmental management and acted as an expert in a number of environmental projects from international organisations such as the European Union, the US Agency for International Development, the World Bank, UNDP, and WWF. He also participates in the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment of the UNECE. Mr Fomenko's research interests include institutional aspects of environmental management and socio-cultural aspects of environmental management. He is teaching as a professor and has published more than 140 scientific and methodological works, including educational books.

Mrs Irina Gromova is Director of quality and management development at the Cherepovets branch of PhosAgro AG. She has experience in science and innovation activities at Ammofos, and graduated from the "Mendeleev University of Chemical Technology of Russia", in Moscow, where she also received her PhD. Dr Gromova has extensive experience in the development of control systems in the chemical industry (phosphorus and nitrogen fertilisers). Under her leadership, enterprises of the holding company PhosAgro Cherepovets have implemented systems for quality management, environmental management, and management of industrial and occupational safety, and were certified for compliance with international standards. Based on results of these efforts, one of the holding companies of PhosAgro – Ammofos – was awarded the prestigious National Award of the Government of the Russian Federation in the field of quality in 2009. Dr Gromova also participated as an expert in various projects regarding river basin management, including Cabri-Volga (cooperation along a Big River) and Twin2Go.

Mrs Elena Ostrovskaya, is a lecturer in Environmental Policy at UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education (Netherlands). She has an extensive experience in the field of environmental monitoring and protection, natural resources management and environmental policy research. This has laid foundation for her current research interest and expertise in integrated water resources management, policy enforcement, monitoring and evaluation. She is specialised in institutional analysis, stakeholder participation in environmental decision-making, compliance with and enforcement of environmental legislation. Having participated in several international projects focusing on river basin, wetland and coastal management, she also gained mediation skills in the field of capacity development. She has an extensive experience in project management, organization and facilitating workshops and conferences, and teaching.